



THE
HARCOURT PAPERS.

THE
HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

OF STANTON HARCOURT, AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY,
IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

VOL. X.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE matter in Volume the Ninth having exceeded convenient bounds, it has been found necessary to divide the Volume into two parts. For better convenience the second part is treated as a separate Volume, and is numbered and paged accordingly.

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Harcourt Papers.

THE following Letters form the continuation of Vol. IX., which, as has been mentioned in the Introduction, it has been found necessary to divide into two parts for greater conveniency.

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“MOST PRIVATE.

“*October 17th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The messenger who had the charge of your Lordship’s letter of the 6th was detained many days at Holyhead, and only arrived here last night at 11 o’clock.

“The part which I have taken upon the opening of the session will, in a great measure, have anticipated your Lordship’s wishes upon American affairs, and will satisfy your Lordship that I mean to take nothing less than an unequivocal part upon them.

* * * * *

“I am highly obliged by your Lordship’s kind attention, and his Majesty’s goodness, in communicating to me, before it is put into execution, the plan for bringing to Ireland 4,000 foreign troops.

The magnitude of the measure is obvious; but before I can submit to your Lordship my sentiments upon the mode most eligible for carrying this scheme into execution, I must beg your permission to ask one question. Namely, whether it be intended that any foreigners are to be called to Great Britain, and stationed there to replace such troops from the British Establishment as his Majesty may think proper to send to America on the present occasion, or whether it is meant that foreigners should be brought into Ireland only? This is the main question that I have to propose and for which, that not a moment may be lost, I purposely send a messenger to your Lordship. He will return the instant you favour me with a line in answer; and I entreat that not a moment may be lost, as the House will be already engaged in the business in which this matter may be involved, even by the time I could have your speediest answer.

“Permit me likewise to request that you would let me know how the law or usage stands in England, with regard to the admission of foreign troops in times of exigency; and after what Parliamentary ceremonies, and whether by a message from the Crown to the two Houses of Parliament? that I may have some sound rule of conduct to direct me in the pursuit of any business dependent upon this measure. Nor must your

Lordship be surprised that I recur on this matter to you. The truth is, I say it with concern and with shame, that I know no one of those who have been called the ancient and confidential servants of the Crown, whom I should dare to trust on such an exigency, without a risk of having the measure defeated.

“Suffer me, my dear Lord, to repeat an earnest desire to have an instant answer to this letter; that I may not lose a moment in submitting to your consideration my humble opinion of the means which will appear to me best eligible for carrying into execution the plan which you have in contemplation.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“*October 23rd, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—The Irish messenger with your Lordship’s kind dispatch to me from Bushy, of the 15th, is this moment arrived; and I am extremely happy to find that the conduct I have held has been so very acceptable to your Lordship.

“With respect to the idea of sending the Brunswick troops into this Country, and the other arrangements depending thereon, I shall beg leave to defer laying my sentiments before you in the manner you desire, until your Lordship shall have

favoured me with an answer to certain points which I requested in the letter that I sent to you by Toole, the messenger, on the 17th, and whose return I am impatiently expecting.

“Upon the other important point on which, with so much kindness and consideration, you have done me the honour to consult me, I shall scarce be able, at this moment, to give you that satisfactory and definite opinion which I hope to do in some days. Considering, nevertheless, the magnitude of an object upon which the subsistence of the American army and our Colonies depends, I shall not withhold, even for an hour, any information which I think may be of use, or which may throw any light upon the subject, for your Lordship’s service.

“If this great dependence is to be had on Ireland, that you even doubt of getting provisions from any other place, it is with peculiar satisfaction I can tell you the harvest has been so good, and provisions of every kind are in such plenty, that there never was a more favourable time for your purpose. Corn of all kinds are in abundance, and potatoes, the chief food of the people, are a drug; they are now sold in the North for 4^d the hundredweight. One would imagine the finger of Providence had interposed; they were never known at so cheap a rate before.

* * * * *

“Your Lordship’s kind attention to this Country, and to my administration, in every thing you say with respect to the embargo which it may become necessary to lay upon our Victualling trade, calls for immediate thanks. I must request some little time before I am able to enlarge upon it. I shall, however, not scruple at this moment to say that, if the necessity of the measure appears clear to your Lordship, I do not apprehend it will meet with more opposition than is common to the necessary measures of government, unless, indeed, people here should be brought to believe that these suggestions to your Lordship come from interested persons, Contractors with the victualling office, or any individuals whose private advantage was to be benefitted by the lowering of provisions here. In that case, indeed, an embargo would be considered as a particular injury to this Country, and the enforcing it might be productive of much clamour and inconvenience; but this, I am satisfied, your Lordship will never permit.

“Upon a supposition that it may become necessary to restrain within some bounds our export of provisions; it is my intention to cause to be prepared heads of a bill to enable the Lord Lieutenant and Council, for a limited time, to issue a proclamation, and to make the bonds legal which it will be necessary to take for the

provisions destined for the troops. This is a matter, however, which may take up some time, let me submit it to you, therefore, whether contracts should not immediately be made, especially for large quantities of corn and potatoes. This would, in some degree, virtually prevent their exportation ; and there is reason to suppose that those necessary articles may be had much cheaper at present than hereafter, when the very great victualling contracts at Cork, Waterford, Limerick, Drogheda, and Dublin, shall have raised the price of all provisions, in general, throughout the Kingdom. After considering a little time this business I shall not scruple to call upon the confidential servants of the Crown stating this matter as an exigency which might naturally arise in the present state of affairs, and not as any command which I may have received from your Lordship.

“Sir John Blaquiere had this morning a letter from Mr. Eden about a vessel called the ‘Standcock and Adams,’ which had been hovering in our Ports with suspicious appearances. The fact is true. There were grounds for suspecting the vessel, and I had her thoroughly searched before she left this Port, and attended off the coast by one of the armed revenue Cruisers. We could very ill spare the Cruiser, and I submit to your Lordship the necessity of having Admiralty Cutters or

Sloops of War stationed, one here, one at Cork, and one at Waterford, with orders to follow the directions of Government in such matters. I apprehend such vessels will also be wanted at Limerick and Belfast, if an embargo should be found requisite. We shall, otherwise, find it extremely difficult to stop laden ships from sailing.

“A thousand thanks, my dear Lord, for the kind manner in which you expedited Mr. Flood’s business. No man can be more truly sensible of the many instances of your attention and friendship than, my dear Lord, &c.”

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ October 24th, 1775.

“MY DEAR LORD,—The zeal which your Excellency has shewn for his Majesty’s service on every occasion, but particularly in these nice and critical times, leaves me no room to doubt of your readiness to promote every measure that will strengthen his Majesty’s hands in the prosecution of the war against the rebels in America. The only doubts I ever entertained upon the proposal of sending foreign troops to Ireland are, whether it would be palatable to the people on your side of the water, or compatible with the circumstances of the country. The name of foreign troops may furnish a handle to the factions in Ireland, if the measure itself is disagreeable to the nation at large ; and perhaps foreigners may, either from their ignorance of the language, or from other causes, not be applicable to many of the civil purposes in which the Irish army is necessarily employed. These two objections have made me doubt of the propriety of the measure, very desirable and, indeed, very important as it is in every other view. But it is of such conse-

quence both that the government of Ireland should be well supported, and that the Irish should be kept in good humour, that I can never advise the measure in question till I have your Excellency's concurrence.

“In order to render it more palatable on your side of the water, I suggested in my last letter to your Excellency that Great Britain would bear the expense of the foreign troops, and I now beg leave to explain myself that the 4,000 foreigners will be deemed part of the 15,000 men composing the Irish Establishment. By which means the revenue of Ireland will, for a time, save the charge of maintaining 4,000 men; and the pay of the foreign troops will more than replace the money sent out of the Kingdom for the regiments serving abroad. I know that I shall be told here that by this arrangement Great Britain will be at the expense of 8,000 men in exchange for the service of 4,000. My answer must be, that the employment of 4,000 more men in America will be of infinite advantage to the publick; and that the defence and welfare of Ireland are objects for which the wealth of Great Britain will be well employed. Your Excellency will understand that this method of maintaining the foreigners by British pay, is suggested to your Excellency if you think it will remove the objections which will be made to the measure in Ireland. We wish to

be as well as possible in that Kingdom, and to consult their convenience and satisfaction in every thing. If your Excellency should find that 4,000 men cannot be carried, but that a smaller number would not be unacceptable, we will content ourselves with a smaller number; though we certainly should be better pleased to send as many as the country are willing or able to admit; because the assistance we can draw from thence to the American War will be in proportion to the number of foreign troops we send thither.

“In answer to the questions your Excellency puts to me, I am to inform you that we mean to supply the absence of regular troops from Great Britain by the Militia; and that, by the best legal advice, it appears that his Majesty may, without breach of the law, employ foreign troops if he will pay for them himself; and if, being added to the National troops, they do not exceed the number voted by parliament. I must, however, add that foreign troops cannot be quartered in his Majesty's dominions without an act of parliament, as they are not comprehended in the mutiny act; and that it would be very unadvisable to introduce foreign troops into Great Britain or Ireland, without previously taking the advice of both parliaments.

“Your Excellency will by this time have received an order from the secretary of state to

prepare five regiments for foreign service by the 1st of December ; including two that were to have left Europe early in the spring, and were not comprehended in the 12,000 men allotted for the defence of Ireland. The three other regiments will be replaced by three regiments from England of 677 men each. The transports which are sent from hence to take up the Irish regiments, will, in the first place, land those which we are to send from hence ; so that Ireland will be rather strengthened by this change.

“I mention to your Excellency, in confidence, that this expedition is destined to the southern provinces of America ; where they will be able to act best in winter, and where we have intelligence that many of the inhabitants are already heartily sick of the dispute.

“I enclose, for your Excellency’s inspection, a state of the net receipt, in England, of the Vice-treasurer’s salary for six years, from 1756 to 1762, both inclusive. Mr. Ellis has suggested two methods of making up to them their losses ; one, by an address to the Crown, according to the enclosed precedent ; and the other, by an augmented salary in lieu of fees. Whichsoever of the two methods will be the most agreeable to your Excellency will be very satisfactory to the Vice-treasurers and to me ; but it is much to be feared that the great amount of the salary, which must

necessarily be given to make up to the office what it has lost, will startle the gentlemen of the Irish parliament. Mr. Ellis thinks the salary should be £4,000 per annum, but I believe that he includes in that sum an indemnification for the losses of past years. Perhaps that may be too much to ask; but I really think the office will not be restored by any salary less than £3,800 per annum, which will leave a net receipt in England of £2,565. All these calculations are made exclusive of the expenses of the office, which are at present borne out of the fees, which amount, *communibus annis*, to £1,700, and which will remain a charge upon Ireland beyond the salaries to the Vice-treasurers.

“I am, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ October 26th, 1775.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I send your Lordship, herewith, the account of the exports from Ireland, which you desire, for ten years past. You must suppose, however, that, upon contract, at least a third more will be charged than is set down ; and as to the quantity exported a very considerable addition is to be made to the provisions regularly entered. I may, therefore, venture to affirm the government paying nearly as much as the merchant receives at present by running all hazards. Much more provisions may be had from this country than what is described by the account transmitted to your Lordship.

“As to the embargo, should it appear at any time indispensable, like every thing else that is essential to the King’s service under your Lordship’s administration, it shall be obeyed zealously and implicitly ; but, as your kindness and partiality have left me a latitude upon the subject, permit me to mention a few of the inconveniences that such a measure would stand exposed to.

“Corn is an absolute drug, in such abundance

as to cause a desire that its importation hither should be taxed. In the South and West of this Kingdom rents are generally paid in beef, butter, and pork ; and a year's rent is annually paid, in November or December, by bills upon merchants for all the produce of Munster and Connaught. Lands have already fallen exceedingly in their value for three or four years past. If an embargo should be laid for six weeks to come, the farmers and squires will be sacrificed to contractors and exporters. Provisions must be necessarily sold, in the mean time, by the farmers ; and the merchant, as soon as the embargo shall be taken off, will then export to all places provisions which have lain in his cellars. So that the price of lands will fall still lower, and the poor will not be relieved.

“Lands are now offered to sale, without purchasers, in some places, at from 16 to 18 years' purchase. Should, however, an embargo be still thought necessary, the moment it shall be decided on a bill shall be prepared, as I mentioned in my last, to empower the Lord Lieutenant and Council to issue a proclamation for that purpose ; and I will endeavour to have it carried through with such expedition as will, I hope, prevent any possible ill consequences. Until, however, it shall be pronounced necessary, every hint tending to raise any rumour of an embargo should, in my

humble opinion, be carefully suppressed. It is, therefore, that I have forborne calling together a meeting of the confidential servants of the crown upon this subject.

"These are my sentiments, delivered to your Lordship with that freedom which your kindness to me not only authorises but commands. You are now in total possession of the subject, signify but your pleasure, and your Lordship's determination shall be the law of my conduct.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"October 27th, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—By this mail your Lordship will receive my official recommendation of Major Hugh Skeffington of the 2nd horse to succeed Major Conway of the 2nd horse, whom, I understand, is promoted to a company in the guards. Although this gentleman's standing in the army is that of a captain of 16 years' service, and that he is the eldest of that rank on this, as well as, I believe, on the British establishment, yet I will freely own to your Lordship that had he not some other merit to plead in the King's service, he is not exactly the officer that I should have proposed as Major Conway's successor.

"My private reasons for adopting Major Skef-

fington are, I will confess, founded in the exigency of the moment. He is brother to the late Lord Massarene. He is in Parliament. His two nephews are in Parliament also ; and have, until the present session, opposed my administration. Some weeks before we met they made their peace. One of the nephews I mean, on the first vacancy, to appoint one of my aid-de-camps. The Uncle expected a fair attention to himself in his profession, and he now claims it. They have supported very zealously, and I am clear in opinion that it will be for his Majesty's *general* service, at this time, to gratify him in his request.

"We have many material points to carry. Upon the breach of the law establishing the augmentation, it will require every exertion on my part to defeat the attack of Opposition. Upon America, it will be highly necessary to confirm our majority ; and in many other instances, perhaps in appearance less essential, yet equally necessary to the King's affairs, and to the peace and quiet of this Kingdom, our members must be attended to. If Major Skeffington is not gratified I cannot expect his own, or his nephews' support ; and a defection of three, which to us makes a difference of six voices, will, upon all or either of the cases I have mentioned be highly prejudicial to his Majesty's government in this Kingdom. I do, therefore, make it my

humble request that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to accept of my recommendation of Major Skeffington to succeed Major Conway.

“With regard to Captain Francis, whom I have recommended in succession to Major Skeffington, he served in the 17th regiment of Dragoons from the raising of the regiment till 1773, when he was permitted to purchase the Company he now has in the 62nd. He also purchased his Cornetcy and Lieutenancy in the 17th, and, as I am informed by Sir John Blaquiere, was employed as Adjutant during the greatest part of that time. I am assured that there is not a more deserving or active cavalry officer of his rank in the army. Added to his military merit, I do him only justice in declaring that he has been of very great use to my administration in a variety of instances, having the advantage of being on the most confidential footing with most of the friends of government in the House of Commons. In addition to these considerations, he is the first officer in my family, being my state steward, which gives him a claim to my protection, as his conduct has, upon all occasions, to my warmest regards, &c.

“P.S. Lord Antrim has just been with me to express his zeal for the support of his Majesty's government. He told me that he lives in the midst of a very Protestant tenantry, which might

enable him to be serviceable either in raising of a new corps, or in forwarding the recruiting service. I expressed my sense of his Lordship's offer, and told him that I would take the first opportunity of making known to his Majesty his Lordship's assurances of zeal and attachment. I told him that I did not apprehend any design to raise new corps, but that any encouragement to the recruiting service will be an essential benefit to the Crown. I believe he intends to bring in a young brother of Massarene's to succeed to his vacant seat for the remainder of the session, for the County of Antrim. There will then be four Skeffingtons in parliament."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Mr. Robinson, Secretary to the Treasury :—

“ November 2nd, 1775.

“MY DEAR SIR,—Since my return hither, my Lord Lieutenant’s attention, as far as other measures would allow, has been particularly directed to the consideration of the approaching dissolution, and its more important consequence the election of a new parliament; to which, if the greatest care and attention be not had, we may, peradventure, lose thirty or forty of our best friends; as I very particularly stated, both to yourself and Lord North, when I was in London. The means to remedy the evil are but few, and, after the conversation we have had upon this score, in which there appeared almost an impossibility of affording us any assistance from England, I shall suppose but one. You must, by pension or place, sink a sum of not less than £9,000 per annum, exclusive of the provision that may be found requisite for rewarding and indemnifying those who are immediately connected, by office, with his Excellency’s administration, or attending

on his person. The former is a matter of necessity, the other of justice ; both equally claiming the attention of the Crown.

“There are, as I have said, not less than from thirty to forty members that, if not assisted, certainly cannot secure their re-elections. Many of these gentlemen hold small employments or pensions, from two to three, some under two hundred, pounds a year. Their seats in the new parliament cannot be purchased at less than from 2,000 guineas to £2,500. Their past services certainly entitle them to the possession of what they now hold ; and an addition, by pension or salary, from two to £250 or more, as circumstances may require, must surely be considered as scarcely an adequate compensation for the advance and loss of so large a sum as 2,000 guineas.

“There are, besides, several gentlemen who, holding not a shilling under the Crown, have assisted and are now engaged to support the measures of government, upon expectation given them of a suitable provision at the end of this session ; and for which the faith of government was pledged during my Lord Townshend’s administration. Many of these he recommended for specific stations or pensions, as your lists will inform you. Among the number of gentlemen to be added, I include the Earl of Belvidere, who returns four members, and the Earl of Bellamont,

whose services have been marked, zealous, and effectual.

“To furnish you with a list of names, at the present moment, could give you neither satisfaction nor information. Let it suffice that for carrying on the public business in the next session of parliament, together with having a prospect of perfecting our business in this, a charge not less than I have stated is indispensable. In truth the transactions of this session are so much involved in the consideration of having a respectable body of friends in the new parliament, that it is impossible to separate them. They are so closely interwoven together that I have been already obliged, with my Lord Lieutenant's leave, to promise small additional salaries or pensions to Messrs. Blakeney, Fitzgerald, Tighe, Sandford, Pennefather, O'Brien, Coghlan, Malone, Cane, and Featherston. These gentlemen we had reason to think were wavering in their faith, and would probably have gone against us, or staid away this session, upon an expectation of perhaps losing their offices at the end of it ; because they were in no possible capacity of bringing themselves in at the general election, without some assistance. There are others in the same way ; but that we may not hold out unauthorised expectation, which may involve many of our best friends, as well as ourselves, in inextricable difficulties, I am, by Lord Harcourt's

desire, to request that you will take the earliest convenient moment to state this matter to my Lord North. We shall then know how far we shall be warranted in entering into engagements for the King's service, as well for the purpose of rewarding gentlemen for their former support, as to continue and secure it to the Crown in the next parliament.

"It is agreeable, however, to consider that the sum, compared to the service, is a trifle in effect ; and there is a further reflection, not displeasing to make, that we have, at this moment, upon a balance, a saving in hand of some thousands a year by pensions fallen in. There is, indeed, a great list of gentlemen, who, either from inadequate fortune, or good services to the Crown, are allowed to have a claim to the assistance of government to enable them to purchase into the next parliament. We are in great hopes, however, from the arrangements that have been made, in consequence of the new creations and advances expected in our peerage, that we shall receive such assistance in bringing our friends into Parliament as will, together with these considerations, secure the object so necessary to be obtained.

"Lose not a moment, I beseech you, my dear Sir, in stating these things to Lord North, for, unless we are empowered to negotiate with certain gentlemen, I am warranted in declaring that there

are not less than thirty or forty of our firmest friends that will unavoidably not be returned in the next parliament, and who may probably make a defection in this; a consideration, in the present temper of the times, of the most serious import, and well deserving the instant attention and interposition of government. I need not add that such a defection of numbers in this House of Commons must, at any time, prove decisive against every measure of government. . . .

“ I am, &c.”

Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

“ November 10th, 1775.

*(Not given to me till 20th May,
1776.—H.)*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I have had so many proofs of your Excellency’s friendship that I need make no apology for my troubling you with my last dying words as a publick man. As a private one I shall ever esteem myself honored with the continuance of your friendship and correspondence. This morning I resigned the Seals ; not by my own choice, but with my hearty concurrence, as it contributed to an arrangement thought necessary for the King’s affairs. I have, however, obtained a most honorable retreat, a very considerable pension for my life, and a promise from the King that he will confer the Garter upon me the first Chapter His Majesty holds. Lord Weymouth succeeds me, and, as the Duke of Grafton is turned out from the Privy Seal, Lord Dartmouth succeeds his Grace, and Lord George Germaine succeeds Lord Dartmouth. Some other inconsiderable changes will take place, but they are not yet finally settled.

"I hope you will forgive me if I venture to trespass so far on your friendship as to beg your Lordship will, if you can, give me a little sinecure place of about £50 or £60 a year for an old servant that has lived with me these thirty years. I have now no way of providing for him but by keeping him myself, which will be a great charge to me.

"My dear Lord, I have still an opportunity of getting any thing properly represented where you would wish it; and I need not add how happy I shall be to seize every opportunity of doing your administration justice. Lord North is stronger than ever, and I am sure you need not fear any other quarter whilst he is in power.

"I am, &c."

From the Earl of Rochford to Sir John Blaquiere :—

"*November 11th, 1775.*

"DEAR BLAQUIERE,—How surprised and, I am sure, concerned you will be when you hear that I am no longer Secretary of State. By the letter I write this night's post to Lord Harcourt you will learn the particulars. When I see you I will tell you some anecdotes about it which will make you stare indeed. I beg you will take care amongst your friends to let it be known that it was not my choice, but that I am *perfectly* satis-

fied with the conditions ; they are both honorable and lucrative. The hands of government are certainly strengthened by Lord George Germaine. My good friend Suffolk is jockeyed both as to the Ribband and to his colleague, for Weymouth is as much superior to him in talents as he is in principle ; but, be that as it may, remember you have still here a humble servant who has still an opportunity to be of use to you, and you know you may command him.

“I have ventured to ask a favor of Lord Harcourt. If he can oblige me he will make me happy beyond measure. It is for our old friend Strasburgh, my butler, who has poured you out many a glass of good Burgundy, and who will be a burthen to me if I am not relieved from it. Adieu, dear Sir John, let me hear from you, and believe me ever, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ November 12th, 1775.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Whilst I acknowledge the kindness with which your Lordship has been pleased to mention my efforts in support of the King’s government and your Lordship’s administration, permit me to mention my concern and surprise at finding my measures obstructed, and the peace of this Kingdom considerably disturbed, by a very new and unexpected species of opposition indeed. I mean that which has arisen, not in this House of Commons, but in yours; supported by some who are called the King’s friends.

* * * * *

“It was a matter, I own, of no small consolation and triumph to me to watch the success with which my Secretary had conducted the King’s business this session, and to observe the universal approbation and respect which his abilities had gained in dealing with the most difficult and complicated subjects. This was the more marked, as by the treachery of old and by the timidity or bashfulness of new friends, he had frequently been obliged, almost singly, to sustain the weight of argument and acrimonious altercation of debate.

Your Lordship will easily judge then how disappointed and mortified I must naturally feel at hearing, not that he has been constantly and grossly misrepresented, for that tribute I should look for from envy, but that those misrepresentations are adopted as facts in the British Parliament, not only by your opposers, but by some of the highest of your political friends. When, for example, it is asserted here that Great Britain has no intention of taxing Ireland, is it necessary to lay a special stress in your House of Commons upon absolute right to tax Ireland? a right, I presume, which is not intended to be exercised, but the vaunting of which is calculated to inflame the minds of a loyal and sensitive people, at a time most critical to Great Britain.

* * * * *

“Forgive me, my dear Lord, for earnestly requesting that, while every act of mine marks the warmest attachment to the King’s government, and to your Lordship’s administration, this injurious practice so lately, and, I must add, so unwisely, assumed, may be discouraged as much as possible.

* * * * *

“In short, my dear Lord, let me be permitted to escape the censure of your friends, and I shall set at defiance the opposition of your enemies. If my Secretary shall be fortunate enough to have

succeeded beyond the expectations, or, perhaps, the wishes, of some of his predecessors, the only merit which he is ambitious of assuming is his attachment to me, and his zeal to execute the King's commands.

“ I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ *November 15th, 1775.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,— . . . On Monday last the question upon the 12,000 men was debated here. Two objects of more important consequence for the King's government I fancy were never brought into this House before. Mr. Conolly, with professions of great moderation, moved, in a most inflammatory speech, certain resolutions importing that the King's promise had been violated, and the law broken. He closed with a proposal for an address to his Majesty to lay these facts before him.

“ Your Lordship must know, that upon these two great points Opposition had built their best hopes ; and, that satisfied, and even exulting, with an expectation of making an impression upon us, they had brought up, as it were in their litters, from their Infirmarys in the remotest parts of the Kingdom, men who were not able to move but to vote. My Secretary has ever treated these

bravados with a sovereign, though a decent, contempt. The answer he made to Mr. Conolly, and the footing on which he stated this matter, was so forcible, and so satisfactory to every member of the House, that I am informed that had Mr. Conolly divided it at that moment there is reason to imagine he would have appeared in a very contemptible minority. The disappointment will, I fancy, be equally felt on your side the water; for Mr. Conolly, in his unguarded expressions, roundly asserted he had been moved to the enquiry not less by gentlemen in England than by his friends here.

“Sir John Blaquiére urged the withdrawing the motion, judging, with particular discretion, how much better such a proceeding would meet your Lordship’s future views than any majority, though ever so decisive. And, at the end of the debate, he felt himself strong enough to propose an alternative to the Opposition, either to withdraw the motion, or to accept a resolution which he had in the course of the debate prepared. This resolution, substituted for Mr. Conolly’s, formulates a most solemn declaration that the engagement with this country has been most faithfully, inviolably, and religiously observed, as far as the numbers of the army and the nature of the establishment would permit. Mr. Conolly withdrew his motion, and I think I may tell your Lordship

that the amendment passed almost with unanimity.

“Mr. Flood made, as I learn, a most eloquent speech. Indeed I believe him to be cordial, and I hope his Majesty will derive from his assistance an able supporter to his government.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“*November 20th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—This morning, for the second time, his Majesty’s confidential servants and the great officers of state met at my apartments, upon the further discussion of your desire to send 4,000 men to America.

“It is with singular satisfaction that I can acquaint your Lordship that I found them unanimously well disposed and zealous in this business; and that I begin to hope I may not meet quite so many difficulties in carrying it into execution as I had expected. It will require, however, the closest attention in the management of it to prevent any accident that may arise, as the proposal is so entirely new in this Kingdom, and is, in truth, fraught with numberless difficulties which we must endeavour to surmount. We agreed upon a message which I am to send to both Houses of Parliament. I shall, however, forbear

sending it to your Lordship at this moment, as it may suffer some alteration. The message will be answered by an address which will be framed into two parts; the first, which is the measure of government, will give the concurrence of both Houses for the exportation of the troops; the other, containing the alternative or option of bringing the foreign troops into the Kingdom, I mean should be shewn to gentlemen, that they may, if they should think proper, adopt it, and let it be an act of their own. I am satisfied that this mode will be the best, for if it come included in the address, and is moved by a friend of government, it would be made the great object of contention by Opposition, who would not fail to fasten upon it. . . .

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“*November 26th, 1775.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,—Last night, at 12 o'clock, the House, in a committee upon the enclosed resolution for sparing to his Majesty upon the present exigency of American affairs a force not exceeding 4,000 men, divided, 121 against 76; and it is with the truest satisfaction and joy that I offer my warmest congratulations to your Lordship upon the success of an event which you

had so much at heart. The event gives me the more pleasure, when I reflect that, in the course of my government Ireland shall have been brought to verify those professions of loyalty which she has so frequently sent to the foot of the throne in such an unequivocal manner, and that it shall be made such a substantial prop to your Lordship's administration.

* * * * *

“Among all the obstacles that lay in our way, the greatest difficulty which appeared was the introducing foreigners into the Kingdom; and I am, in my conscience, satisfied that, if the two measures had been complicated together, such an opposition would have been raised to this one as must have defeated both. Four thousand men for the American service is the great and material object mentioned in your Lordship's letters; and the sparing these troops must be such a convincing proof to America, and to the whole world, of the decisive part Ireland takes in the quarrel, as must be tantamount almost to the substantial assistance which it renders. It was, therefore, that, in an early part of the debate, Sir John Blaquiere stepped forth for the determined purpose of separating the two ideas, boldly avowing as the measure of government the sparing 4,000 men upon this emergency, and leaving entirely to the option of the House whether they would

accept or not of the foreign protestants that were offered to replace them, the consideration of which comes on to-morrow.

“It is essentially necessary that I should be very explicit in informing your Lordship that the 4,000 men to be spared are of such men only as our 12,000 are composed of. I mean that they can be only 4,000 nominal men, because the 12,000 are nominal and not effective; and this must necessarily be the case, even though foreigners were to be introduced; for foreigners are not applicable to the civil services of the country. If, therefore, a smaller proportion of national troops than that which will remain, after the 4,000 men are sent away, was left in the country, I am bound in duty to declare that the internal peace of this kingdom would not be secure, nor the government safe.

“The speakers in opposition to the measures were Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Fitzgibbon, Sir E. Newnham, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Ogle, Sir James Collier, Mr. Morres, Mr. Yelverton (very violent), Mr. Chapman, Mr. Conolly, and Mr. Hussey Burgh, who closed the debate on their part; and on ours it was defended by Mr. Keller, Sir John Blaquiere, Mr. Carleton, Mr. W. Flood, Mr. Jephson, Mr. Langrishe, Mr. B. Barry, Mr. Mason, Mr. French, Mr. Prime Serjeant Dennis, Mr. Forster, the Solicitor General, Mr. Serjeant Coppinger, and Sir John

Blaquiere a second time in reply to Mr. Hussey Burgh, who finally closed the debate. Sir Archibald Acheson moved the resolution for the Address, and was seconded by Colonel Ross.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“*November 30th, 1775.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,— . . . And now I come to the state of defence in which this country will stand when the 4,000 men are sent out of it. We mean heartily and sincerely to contribute one third of our whole force to the exigency of the present moment, upon the principle that, by the wisest disposition of the defences that remain to us, the peace of the Kingdom may be still ensured. Were our effective numbers complete, you might command 4,000 effective men; but you will see by the enclosed state, which has been thoroughly sifted in parliament, how matters actually stand; nor will you be disposed to give us the less credit for our services under these accumulated disadvantages. On the first of November, the effective numbers of our 12,000 men amounted only to 9,260; and after subtracting one third, namely the 3,086 men which are left at your command, there will remain to us 6,174 men only. In these numbers 519 contingent men are included; but,

to counterbalance this diminution, the recruits raised since the 1st November are not stated in the account ; so that, taken together, it may fairly be supposed that, were the embarkation to take place to-morrow, there would remain in this country for its defence, 6,174 men in their shoes. Compared with the 12,000 men appointed by law to remain in this Kingdom for its defence, this is a very great disproportion. I am satisfied, nevertheless, that, by a special repartition of these troops, better service may be obtained from them.

* * * * *

“I am not alarmed at the troubles excited by the risings of the White Boys in the south, which must chiefly be dealt with by the civil magistrates, and for which the military alone will ever be found insufficient. I must, however, intreat to be allowed to recommend as a necessary measure, the embodying into independent companies as many out-pensioners from our Kilmainham lists as shall be found upon examination to be fit for service. I have reason to think that we may obtain near upon 1,000 in number. I should wish them to be incorporated into companies of one hundred each ; officered from the half-pay in Great Britain or Ireland ; or in such other manner as his Majesty shall think fit. The extra expense, if any should arise, ought to be borne by Great Britain ; and this, after the generous

offers your Lordship has made, will scarcely meet with your refusal. But, above all things, I must entreat you, with my humble duty to his Majesty, to represent that, if any special draft of the old and formed soldiers on this establishment were to be made into the corps destined for the American service, it is my humble but decided opinion that this country would be insecure, and the peace of the Kingdom no longer to be depended on.

“I am, &c.”

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

“PRIVATE.

“*December 1st, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—I do not well know how to begin my letter to your Excellency, whether by thanks for your zeal and activity in the late important business, or by congratulations on your extraordinary success. A resolution of the Irish House of Commons, so important and so seasonable, must have the most extensive good consequences, even if we were not to avail ourselves of their friendly disposition; but we shall most probably call for their proffered assistance, at least in some degree, early in the next year. Your Excellency judged rightly that the first part of the proposition was what we had most at heart. Foreign protestant troops were only offered upon a supposition that Ireland would desire to have the 4,000 men replaced by some means or other. His Majesty does by no means wish that any should be sent thither if there is the least dislike conceived against them. Since I wrote to your Excellency upon this subject we are in a fair way of obtaining the assistance of the Scotch brigade

in the Dutch service. Perhaps, if it should be found necessary to supply the deficiency in the Irish army, the most convenient as well as the most palatable way of supplying it would be by that corps, all the officers of which and a great part of the private men are his Majesty's natural born subjects. This is only for your Excellency's private ear. It is not yet certain that we shall take the brigade into British pay. I could wish, therefore, only to have your Excellency's private sentiments upon this proposal, if the situation of affairs should render it necessary. I think it better that my suggestion should be communicated to none of the King's servants in Ireland except Sir John Blaquiere and the Commander in chief.

"I am sorry to find that any thing which has passed in our House of Commons should have given any uneasiness to your Excellency. If you had been present you would not have conceived the matter to have deserved that attention which it seems to have excited in Ireland. I have almost forgot the transaction you allude to, as I took very little notice of it at the time; but, if I remember well, it passed in the following manner. Some member, I think Mr. Barre, quoted in a debate some words of Sir John Blaquiere in the Irish House of Commons, to this effect, 'That Mr. Rigby's declaration in the last session was

only the opinion of a rash individual, and not the sense of his Majesty's Ministers.' This was said in such a manner as made it absolutely necessary for Mr. Rigby to take notice of it. He certainly maintained his old opinion, as true in theory and as grounded in the statute book; but expressed himself most strongly against the propriety and justice of imposing any tax upon Ireland. He never sought the opportunity of saying a word upon the subject; and, when called upon in such a manner that he could not continue silent, treated the question as prudently as possible without directly contradicting his former declaration. Your Excellency may be assured that this conversation arose by accident, and that nothing passed that day, either from Mr. Rigby or any other person, that could raise the least alarm in the breast of any reasonable Irishman.

"Mr. Robinson will, by this occasion, write a few lines to Sir John Blaquiere upon the subject of his most *secret and confidential* letter. The King desires that the particulars of your Excellency's demand may be stated; and will not authorise me to give any *positive answer* till that is done. I may, however, venture to add, what I hope you will believe, that there is on this side of the water a most favorable disposition to comply with your Excellency's wishes.

"As every regiment ordered to America is to

leave behind a Captain to superintend the recruiting service, I have it in command from his Majesty to inform your Excellency that it is his pleasure that Captain Acland should remain on the part of Lord Cornwallis. It is his Majesty's further pleasure that Mr. Acland be allowed to purchase a majority upon the Irish Establishment as soon as any opportunity shall offer.

"Ever since I received your Excellency's letter in the course of the summer I have endeavoured to carry the plan of his new corps into execution, but difficulties have arisen which have prevented it. I now most earnestly wish to see his views upon the majority succeed; and shall esteem myself particularly obliged to your Excellency if you will promote it.

"We are much obliged to Mr. Acland for the zeal he has shewn during the present disturbances, and it is of great political consequence that he should obtain the favor which he solicits.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"December 2nd, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—In my other letter I sincerely congratulated you upon your success; but I beg leave to add a word here to tell you how much I was alarmed at finding you had deter-

mined to bring the business immediately before parliament, without referring it to the consideration of his Majesty's servants here. My alarm was the greater as your Excellency had proceeded upon a private letter of mine, which could not give any official authority; and which was only calculated to learn from your Excellency what were the sentiments of the people of Ireland, in order that his Majesty might, if they proved favorable, take such steps as he should think proper in consequence. The business never having been formally laid before the cabinet, and the circumstance of the offers of the Duke of Brunswick and the young Prince of Hesse never having been communicated to the British parliament, I run some risk of being blamed both by the parliament and my brother Ministers.

"A great clamour was endeavoured to be raised yesterday in the House of Commons upon two grounds; the first, that the taking of the Brunswickers and Hessians into pay had been communicated to the Irish before the British parliament; and the second, that the Lord Lieutenant had been authorised from hence to pledge the British parliament to pay for the 4,000 Irish and the foreign troops. These were two heavy charges. As notice has been given of a day to take your Excellency's message into consideration, I evaded entering into the question any further than saying

that no authority had been given from hence to pledge the parliament of Great Britain; and that I could venture to affirm that your Excellency had not done it. I think that the words of the message will justify me in my assertion. I am obliged, by business, to put an immediate end to this letter, but I cannot conclude it without desiring your Excellency not to suppose that I complain of what has been done in Ireland. Your great success makes amends for more than all the inconveniences which may accrue to me from any error that may have happened in the form of proceeding. I do not know as yet that any great difficulties will arise, or that there has been any step taken which can be called error, unless it should have been one to have acted upon my private letter of enquiry, without waiting for an official authority and directions grounded upon the advice of all his Majesty's servants.

“I am, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ December 9th, 1775.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have had this moment the honour of your Lordship’s letters of the 1st and 2nd instant, and am happy to find that my readiness to carry into execution your Lordship’s wishes with regard to the 4,000 men has not been displeasing to your Lordship, nor disadvantageous to your administration.

“Though I may be blamed by some, as proceeding too hastily and unadvisedly in a matter of such importance; and though I am sure of being condemned by those who are any ways adverse to the measures now pursuing by Great Britain, yet I am sustained by a consciousness of having done my duty to the King and to my country; and I most solemnly declare that, were the like question to be again under consideration, I should endeavour to do precisely what I did on the late occasion. Your Lordship perceives that I do not mean to make the least apology for having almost anticipated your wishes; but, the truth is, the business admitted of no

delay ; there was an absolute necessity to bring the matter to a speedy issue, after the Committee of supply was closed, and before the heads of the money bill was reported. It was to that necessity I acquiesced rather than lose the opportunity of doing his Majesty the most essential service I can ever expect to do him.

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“And, therefore, regardless of the consequences of not waiting for an official order to justify my conduct, I ventured to avail myself of the critical moment for the service of the Crown. But if, after all that has been done, people should be so prejudiced as to disapprove, not only of the measure itself, but of the mode of conducting it, I shall be most ready to take the blame of the whole, or any part of it, upon myself, rather than see your Lordship the object of the least censure or reproach that you do not deserve. I think there is little reason to be very apprehensive either of the one or the other. The consent of the two Houses of Parliament to part with the 4,000 men was only conditional, and was no ways binding on Great Britain, unless she chooses to accept the troops, on the terms that have been held out. The transaction, moreover, cannot be supposed to take effect until his Majesty shall be enabled by parliament to take the troops into British pay. This is no unfair construction to put upon the

words of my message to the two Houses of Parliament.

"After troubling your Lordship so long, I shall only beg leave to observe, that no one has any reason to take offence at what has been done, except his Majesty's rebellious subjects in North America, and their secret and traiterous abettors in Great Britain, for whom I have the most sovereign contempt. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*December 9th, 1775.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—You desire to know my sentiments respecting the Scotch brigade in the Dutch service ; that is to say, as to the expediency of employing them in Ireland, if the situation of affairs should make more troops necessary.

"The officers attached to that brigade being his Majesty's natural born subjects, may make the employment of it less liable to exception than the employment of other foreign troops.

* * * * *

"If the Commander in chief were here, and it were already determined to send the Scotch brigade to Ireland, I should certainly call upon him for his opinion as to the proper mode of carrying

into execution his Majesty's commands. But, as to the expediency of the measure itself, I should be unwilling to consult him or any gentleman in his situation. And that, for this very plain and obvious reason, because my station makes me alone responsible for the consequences of such a measure.

“ I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ *December 11th, 1775.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—There is one point above all others in your letters of the 1st and 2nd, which requires my most particular and serious observation. I do not mean, when I am forced to talk of the Commander in chief, to enter into the particulars of the conduct of General Irwin : it is my intention, if it be possible, to avoid doing so ; but when I hear, in this serious manner, from your Lordship, that it is expected I should consult with him upon a measure of State of such importance as that of the introduction of the Scotch Dutch into this Kingdom, it is a duty I owe to his Majesty, as well as to myself, explicitly to speak my opinion. It will always be my desire to avail myself of the opinion of the Commander in chief upon military points ; and particularly in matters of internal regulation ; yet, in a mighty matter

of State, as this matter appears to me, I should not hold myself free to put it into the power of a person who has no responsibility in this country to cross or check any measure which I might deem essential to his Majesty's general service, and for which the Lord Lieutenant alone is to be made answerable. This for your own private information, but I wish your Lordship to be in the full and entire possession of my mind.

"I shall beg leave to acquaint your Lordship, that, if I have been able to do his Majesty any little service since I came into this country, it may be in some measure owing to my not consulting too frequently the confidential servants of government. I do not mean to cast any reflection upon those gentlemen, but only to convince your Lordship of the necessity of not divulging every measure of government without an absolute necessity, that is to say where it cannot be carried into execution without their assistance. I was the more inclined to trouble your Lordship with these particulars, because it has been industriously given out that the servants of the Crown have been slighted by me; a charge that gives me little uneasiness as long as it shall appear that his Majesty's service has not been neglected by,

"My dear Lord, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“MOST SECRET AND PRIVATE.

“*December 15th, 1775.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—To save your Lordship some trouble, I have directed Sir John Blaquiere to send to Mr. Robinson a statement of the arrangements that are necessary to fulfil my engagements, entered into to secure such a majority in the new Parliament as may afford a fair prospect of carrying on his Majesty’s affairs with success.

“Though the list transmitted to Mr. Robinson has been made with the greatest care and attention, yet I thought it so material for your Lordship to be minutely informed of every circumstance that has relation to an object of such moment to the welfare and ease of his Majesty’s government as the choice of a new Parliament, that I have sent my private Secretary, Mr. Lees, to give your Lordship any further lights which you may wish to have. Mr. Lees having the honour to be known to your Lordship, makes it the less necessary for me to say so much of him as I should otherwise do. I shall only take the liberty to assure your Lordship that no one can give you so precise, so accurate, and so faithful, an account of every thing that relates to the House of Commons. He is thoroughly acquainted with all their proceedings, having attended all the debates, as well in Lord

Townshend's time, as during the last and present session of parliament. There is not a member of the House of whom he has not more or less knowledge. Many of them he knows intimately, their characters, their views, their particular merits and demerits. No one, in short, has had so fair an opportunity of acquiring so thorough a knowledge of and insight into the various connections of this Kingdom ; and it is that knowledge, joined with the strictest honour, good sense, and most unblemished integrity that has enabled him to do me, and, permit me to say, his Majesty, the most important services.

"Should your Lordship have any thing of consequence to impart, either relative to my own situation or to the affairs of this country, you may venture to communicate it to Mr. Lees with the greatest safety and confidence.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"December 18th, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The public business drawing towards a conclusion, and every material object of the Crown being fulfilled, I take the liberty of mentioning to your Lordship Sir John Blaquiere, to whose abilities and fidelity in the various branches of business, and particularly in the House of Commons, the success of my admin-

istration has been greatly owing. The office of Alnage which he holds is not only precarious and uncertain in the collection of its fees, but the value of it is lessening every year; so that at this moment it does not produce more than £700 per annum, Irish. I understand that he took the liberty of representing to your Lordship that the incumbrances he had unavoidably brought upon himself while he was secretary to the embassy and *Chargé des affaires* at Paris, and his still more necessary expenses incurred during the former session of parliament, must fall very heavily upon him, unless his Majesty shall be graciously pleased to make some further provision for him.

"I do, therefore, most earnestly entreat your Lordship's good offices with his Majesty; and that you would make it my most humble request, and it shall be the last I shall ever make for Sir John, that, when the business of this session is over, his Majesty would, out of his bounty to a faithful servant who has served the Crown with no less ability than zeal, graciously bestow on him a provision to the amount of £1,500 per annum, upon this establishment, during his Majesty's pleasure.

"There are so many crosses and unforeseen events to which all things of this nature are liable, that I must submit to your Lordship's friendship and prudence the favourable moment of laying

this my earnest request before the King. It would be but an invidious task to draw a parallel between the services of Sir John and those of his predecessors in office ; but I may presume to hope that, when they are thoroughly considered, they will speak for themselves. I hope I shall not be thought too importunate on this occasion. If, however, I should appear so, it will be less excusable in behalf of another than in anything that personally concerns,

“My dear Lord, &c.”

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ December 21st, 1775.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I expressed myself very ill if my last letter to your Excellency conveyed any idea that your conduct had been blamed by any of his Majesty’s servants. What I wrote respecting the message proceeded solely from my own apprehensions, which, thank God, have proved ill founded. That very important transaction which has been so gloriously successful in Ireland has not been, nor, I trust, will be, attended with any bad consequences here. My brethren in administration have made no complaint, and have expressed no jealousy of the channel through which the business passed. As to the wording of the message, I am satisfied that, if it should be ever questioned in the House of Commons, we shall not find it a difficult matter to defend it. We shall contend that the relief offered to the Irish Establishment is nothing more than a very necessary and reasonable condition upon which alone his Majesty desired the 4,000 men ; and which it was requisite for the King to mention to the parliament of Ireland at the time of the requisition ;

that the King has by no means pledged the parliament of Great Britain ; that the question is still entire with respect to us ; that application must be made to us if his Majesty wishes to have the 4,000 men on the British Establishment ; and that if we refuse our consent the consequence will be that they will remain in Ireland. This, I think, is the plain meaning of the message, which appears to me so clear that I much question whether the matter will ever be agitated in our House of Commons. Those who spoke so violently upon the subject a fortnight ago, spoke from a very incorrect copy of the message which had been given in the public papers.

“Your Excellency seems to have misunderstood what I said respecting the Scotch Dutch ; and, so, have misconstrued a *caution* that I suggested against mentioning the subject to any person except Sir John Blaquiere and the Commander in chief, into a *desire* that you would consult with them. The truth is, that it was then uncertain whether we would take the brigade into his Majesty's service ; and I thought that too general a communication of my question to your Excellency might be attended with inconvenience. On that account I wished that, for a time at least, no person might hear of the Scotch brigade but Sir John Blaquiere and the Commander in chief, whose opinions I thought it probable that you

might wish to take before you should return any answer to my enquiry.

“The King approves extremely of your Excellency’s plan of availing yourself of such invalids of Kilmainham as are fit for service ; but I could wish that, as the additional expense will not be great to Ireland, we may not be put to the difficulty of applying for it to the British House of Commons. In the case of foreign troops, as they would probably be taken into British pay, they might have been directed by his Majesty to go to Ireland, and the poverty of that Kingdom might have been pleaded against throwing the expense off of ourselves upon the Irish Establishment ; but even in that case, as your Excellency has observed, I should have been exposed to a very disagreeable contest, and to many complaints on the part of this country ; from which the Irish parliament have freed me by declining to accept the foreign troops. But the Hospital of Kilmainham belongs so entirely to Ireland, and the precedent of taking any of the pensioners belonging to that Hospital into British pay would give so much alarm and disgust, that I hope it will not be pressed ; especially as the relief to the Irish Establishment will, in this instance, be so small and so little worth the trouble we shall be put to in order to obtain it.

“I am afraid that the parliament of Ireland

may be startled at the omission of the two clauses respecting the 4,000 men out of the money bill. The reasons assigned for it were these. First, that there was no law for maintaining constantly 12,000 men in Ireland ; and that, therefore, it was unnecessary and might be of bad consequence to enact that it should be *lawful* to withdraw 4,000 of them ; that the King's engagement with the Irish parliament was a *promise* from which he has, in the present instance, been absolved by the addresses of the two Houses ; the proper method of signifying their consent in cases not contrary to law. Secondly, that this matter was so totally foreign to the proper subject of a money bill, that it had the appearance of a *Tack* against which it is indispensably necessary for the British Privy Council to be on their guard ; especially as the Irish House of Commons complain so loudly against any material alteration in the heads of a money bill. I hope that these considerations will appear reasonable to the Irish House of Commons, as the Privy Council very carefully avoided every alteration that could have the least connection with money.

“I have just received a letter from Sir John Blaquiere with the news of the determination of the Irish parliament respecting the Vice-Treasurers and the Clerk of the Pells. I did not know that it was your Excellency's intention to

fix a salary upon the latter office. What had been resolved will, for the present, and probably for many years to come, be a considerable improvement to that office. If £3,500 in Ireland will produce more than £2,560 in London, as Sir John imagines, I believe our Vice-Treasurers will be very well satisfied.

“By Sir John’s letter I learn that we may expect Mr. Lees every hour. As I imagine he comes commissioned to inform us fully of all your Excellency’s plans and wishes, I shall be able to settle with him whatever I am from hurry obliged to omit in this letter.

“I am, &c.

“P.S. Lord George Germaine having written to Sir John Blaquiere a private letter containing at large his plan of employing the Scotch Dutch, it is unnecessary for me to mention that subject any further than to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency’s letter of the 13th, which I received yesterday, and will lay before his Majesty this morning.

“*December 23rd.*

“Mr. Lees is arrived, and I have had a long discourse with him. He is now in my house, and I shall have some more conversation with him about your Excellency’s message. I have

not yet laid it before the King, but will do it as soon as possible, and will return your Excellency a speedy and, I hope, not unfavorable answer.

“N.”

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ December 21st, 1775.

“MY DEAR LORD,—The alterations in the money bills have thrown us into some confusion. The money bill with the two offensive clauses, and the stamp bill, have both been rejected. We foresaw what was likely to happen, and were prepared to bring in new bills. The new stamp bill has already passed, after some very warm debates. Mr. Ogle moved to have the altered money bill burnt by the hands of the common hangman ; but there was too good an attendance of our friends for Opposition to divide upon it. They are now debating the money bill with the two clauses that were struck out, and it is thought the House will sit late. The drift of Opposition is to force us to send back this bill in the same form in which it was first sent to you, and it is our business to resist such an attempt, and to send you back such a bill as will be liable to no kind of objection. Our revenue, as it is, will suffer sufficiently by the delay already occasioned. What becomes of the 4,000 men will be another consideration. I have

laboured as much as possible not to blend it with the money bill for fear of further entanglement.

* * * * *

“Allow me, my dear Lord, though I am ashamed of giving you so much trouble, to say a word as to the expediency of inserting the two rejected clauses. The Royal promise to keep 12,000 men, &c., has been uniformly embodied in the money bill ; and, if I am not misinformed, was the price of the augmentation in 1769, with the sanction and concurrence of the British and Irish legislatures ; it would not, and indeed could not, have been carried but by the spirited exertion and activity of Lord Townshend. Shall it be said in England that it is *only the Royal promise* introduced into the Law ? Is such language decent and respectful ? No power on earth shall ever persuade me to think so. But if the Royal promise was binding, the two rejected clauses only set the promise free.

“But it is said to be a tack to a money bill. I cannot conceive that to be the case ; for tacking to a money bill is *extorting* something from the Crown, and making it part of a grant. In this instance it is only one part of the law explaining and partially repealing another part, for the purpose of enabling his Majesty to avail himself of the 4,000 men ; which, notwithstanding the prevailing opinion in England, is thought by almost

every man here to be impracticable, without some other powers than those that are derived from the addresses of the two Houses only. The House is still sitting, and it is now 10 o'clock. If the House is up time enough, I shall be unwilling, long as this letter is, to seal it without letting you know the event of the money bill. I make no doubt but the general sense of the House will be known in the course of the debate, as to the power of disposing of the 4,000 men in sending them out of the Kingdom.

"Friday morning, December 22nd.

"I waited till two this morning, when it was too late to send the letter by the packet. The House was not up before 3, but we carried our two bills. There were eight divisions. The bills will be brought up to the council this evening; and I hope we shall send them off by 11 o'clock this night. I need not say any thing after what has happened to enforce the necessity of returning these bills without any other than the usual alterations. Should those bills be lost we are undone. The loss of the revenue, great as it is, being the least of the mischiefs that may ensue.

"I shall send your Lordship, shortly, a particular account of what passed upon this occasion in parliament. At present I have not time to do it. There was a spirit of indignation raised in the

House, that required great temper and conduct on the part of Government to prevent the most indecent excesses. Since I have been in Ireland I have seen nothing of so serious a nature as this business, but I hope the heat will subside and every thing be quiet in a few days.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ December 23rd, 1775.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Upon talking with M^r. Lees, I think it would be wrong in me to let the messenger go without saying a word or two more about Lord George Germaine’s letter to Sir John Blaquiere. M^r. Lees apprehends that Sir John may have some difficulty about receiving or answering it upon the supposition that it was written without the knowledge of your Excellency’s humble servant. In order to obviate this mistake I think it right to inform your Excellency that it was written with the knowledge not only of your humble servant, but of the whole Cabinet Council. We are afraid that the Scotch Brigade are not fit for immediate service, and are, therefore, desirous of introducing them into Ireland, where we apprehend that they may be more useful than foreign troops ; and where we fear that the army remaining will be found too small for the necessary demands of the Kingdom. Lord George Germaine having laid before us the manner in which he thought the Scotch Brigade might be most beneficially employed, we desired him to write a pri-

vate letter to your Excellency's secretary containing his plan in detail; not thinking it right to take any further step in the business till the whole of our design is known in Ireland. To be sure if the Scotch Brigade are what I believe they are in the eye of the law, *British* troops, and if they can be employed serviceably, as I hope they may, in Ireland, the plan suggested by Lord George will furnish 10,000 men for the defence and protection of Ireland; and, at the same time, afford a great and essential addition to our force in America, where they will be much wanted early in the spring. As Lord George Germaine has no official correspondence with Ireland, we thought that the properest way for him to convey his sentiments to that country was a private letter to Sir John Blaquiere. I hope, therefore, that no wrong construction will be put upon this transaction, but that the plan will be well weighed and considered by your Excellency.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“ December 24th, 1775.

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I have been so much hurried of late, and more particularly since the return of the money bills, that it really has not been in my power to send your Lordship such an account from hence as I wished to have done at so critical a moment.

“The public business being, in a manner, concluded with not less advantage and credit to the Crown than to the satisfaction of this Kingdom in general, it gave me great concern to see the money bills returned with such alterations as made it impracticable for me to prevail upon the House to pass them. Any attempt on my part to enforce such a measure would have done me so much discredit, as to have made it impossible for me to do his Majesty any further service in this country.

* * * * *

“I understand that the two clauses were struck out upon this principle; that the military force raised in every part of the British Empire was conceived to be the province of executive govern-

ment. Without meaning to express a doubt as to the principle on which the Privy Council proceeded, I shall take up no more of your Lordship's time at present than to acquaint you that the alterations in the stamp bill at any other time would scarce have been noticed, but the ferment that was raised against the other more important bill proved fatal to the stamp bill.

"Of the various difficulties in which my administration has been involved none have exceeded, or even equalled, those which I have lately encountered. If the greatest pains had not been taken to check the ferment and intemperance that appeared in the House of Commons, the very extraordinary efforts that were made by Opposition to send back the money bill with the same clauses that had been struck out, would not have been defeated, as they were, to the disappointment and mortification of those who wished to throw every thing into confusion.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

"December 28th, 1775.

"MY LORD,—I am unwilling to wait for the return of the money bills before I state to your

Lordship the very great and unforeseen difficulties that may arise with regard to the 4,000 men, if the critical circumstances of affairs in America should make it necessary for his Majesty to employ them out of this Kingdom.

* * * * *

“Your Lordship knows what was the fate of the money bill on its return here. It gave occasion to the most violent heats that have appeared since I came to Ireland. The most prudent friends of government could scarce be restrained within the bounds of decency. Even the confidential servants of the Crown themselves, those, at least, who, at the meetings in my apartment, had declared the necessity of making a provision in the money bill to *enable* his Majesty to send out of the Kingdom the 4,000 men, made no difficulty to declare, and in the most explicit terms, that it would be unlawful (the two clauses being struck out of the bill) to send a man of the 12,000 out of this Kingdom. This was understood to be the general sense of the House. If there was any difference of opinion no man ventured to avow it. Some gentlemen, who foresaw to what straits government was reduced by this fatal dilemma, endeavoured to prepare an explanatory clause to be introduced into the new bill, nearly of the same import as the two rejected clauses. But, from the danger of inserting any clause that might be liable

to objection on the other side, it was thought advisable to send over the new bill without it. It is now submitted to the consideration of your Lordship and his Majesty's servants in England, whether it might not be expedient to send us over the *sketch* of a short bill, so framed as to steer clear of the prerogative of the Crown; and at the same time to remove all objections on this side to the legality of sending the 4,000 men out of the Kingdom except in case of invasion, or of rebellion in Great Britain. For if any thing of that sort had been deemed proper in England, it would probably have been inserted in the bill that came back; and instead of leaving out the two clauses the advisers of the Crown would have altered them so as to have answered their purpose.

"However clear and indisputable the right of the Crown may be to dispose of these troops in consequence of the addresses of the two Houses of Parliament only, yet such, my Lord, are the prejudices that unfortunately prevail in favour of a very different opinion, that my duty to his Majesty, and a due regard and attention to the welfare of this Government, oblige me to lay before your Lordship the very serious difficulties that will unavoidably occur in sending away the 4,000 men, unless the most prudent means are made use of to remove them.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“January 1st, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,— I am unwilling to take up any more of your Lordship’s time than to assure you that there appears to be something more than a disinclination towards the Scotch-Dutch troops; and if, instead of the German Protestant troops, which, it is conceived, were not intended to be a burthen on this establishment, a proposal should be made to receive the Scotch in *lieu* of them, and to place them on this establishment, I very much fear that the whole influence of the Castle would not be sufficient to carry the measure in parliament.

“In the situation I have the honour to fill I consider it as much a part of my duty to state such difficulties as arise, as it is to do every thing in my power and to the best of my abilities, to remove them. I hope what I have said will meet with no unfavourable construction, and that I shall never be thought wanting in zeal to forward his Majesty’s service.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

“ January 8th, 1776.

“ MY LORD,—At the same time that I acknowledge the honour of your Lordship’s letters of the 1st instant, that signify to me his Majesty’s pleasure for eight regiments to prepare for foreign service, and the method intended for making good the deficiencies on this establishment, I cannot but confess I never received a dispatch that gave me so much concern and uneasiness. I am persuaded it cannot be his Majesty’s intention to reduce me to the mortifying dilemma of paying immediate obedience to his Majesty’s commands, at the expense of my honour and reputation, and in direct contradiction to my judgment, and to, what I apprehend to be, the general sense of this nation.

“ That I may give your Lordship as little trouble as possible, I beg leave to send you the enclosed extracts from two of my letters to Lord North of the 26th and 30th of November last. They seem so full and explicit on the subject matter of this letter, that any addition to them might rather weaken than strengthen the opinion, to which every day’s experience convinces me more and more I ought most invariably to adhere.

“But if the measures of Government are absolutely determined, and the orders transmitted to me are irrevocable ; if eight regiments, instead of six, are to be sent out of this Kingdom, or even six, merely on the addresses of the two Houses, followed by a law that contradicts those addresses, and without any other parliamentary provision for that purpose, I must, with a degree of reluctance and regret, proportionable to my duty and attachment to his Majesty, most humbly request him to appoint some other person to execute those orders, which, I apprehend, may be, in their consequences, most fatal to his Majesty’s government and to the peace and good order of this Kingdom.

“I am gone, my Lord, too far already not to be fully sensible of my situation, which is the most cruel and unmerited that ever fell to the share of a man whose life has been invariably devoted to the service of his Prince. I might have expected a very different catastrophe from what I am likely to meet ; but, let the event be what it will, I am prepared for it ; and though I see myself reduced to the necessity of sacrificing the fairest expectations of his Majesty’s esteem and favour, which I value above all things, yet I shall still have the satisfaction to think that I have done my duty to my King and Country.

“I am, &c.

“P.S. After giving, this day, the Royal assent

to the two rejected money bills, the parliament adjourned to the 31st instant, with a view to give his Majesty's ministers as much time as was possible to adjust and provide for this important business."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"January 8th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Enclosed I send your Lordship the copy of a letter I have just wrote to Lord Weymouth, in answer to his official letter, which I take the liberty to send you. When you have perused the contents of them, you will be fully convinced that, circumstanced as I was, and required, in the most peremptory manner, to carry into execution measures so very different from those that were originally proposed, I have been reduced to the necessity of putting an end to my political existence ; for I foresee that will be the natural consequence of my answer to Lord Weymouth.

"I have barely time to apologize for the liberty I have taken in transmitting to Lord Weymouth the extracts from two letters I wrote to your Lordship. They were so full, and contained so entirely the substance of what I thought most material, that I was, in a manner, forced to have recourse to them.

"The time presses me so as not to allow me leisure to assure your Lordship that, let what will be my fate, I shall ever retain the most grateful sense of your most honourable behaviour towards me. I shall take the liberty, on another occasion, of troubling you with my sentiments more at large, but not more cordially or affectionately.

"Yours, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"January 11th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The last time I did myself the honour to write your Lordship I had but just time to let you know the steps I had been obliged to take on a late very interesting occasion ; and to refer you to some parts of my former letters to prove that my sentiments with regard to the 4,000 men have been uniform and consistent.

"From the moment I received his Majesty's commands for the eight regiments to prepare for foreign service, I have considered myself virtually recalled from this Government, and my principal concern has been to quit it in the manner the least likely to obstruct those measures which I could not, in honour, carry into effect.

"If the augmentation of the Irish army, which was attempted in the year 1767, and was carried out in 1769, owed its success to his Majesty's

message, which was considered as binding, in that particular instance, on the part of the Crown, it will sufficiently justify my doubts, and the part I have taken in consequence of them. I know of no man so capable of satisfying your Lordship, as to those particulars, as Lord Townshend; for he, who was best acquainted with the difficulties which attended that measure, cannot be a stranger to the true motives that prevailed at that time in its favour. Your Lordship will not be surprised that I am anxious to have this matter rightly understood for the justification of my own conduct, which I wish to clear from the imputation of obstructing his Majesty's service.

"With real pleasure I can acquaint your Lordship that the revenue from Lady day, 1775, to the 2nd January, 1776, amounts to £83,550 more than it produced from Lady day, 1774, to Christmas, 1774. The particulars I send your Lordship; and, when the year's account is completed, the total of the year's increase will, I hope, fall little short of £100,000. This advance of the revenue is the more satisfactory, as it tends to shew that I have not been inattentive to the improvement of the revenue; and that Sir John Blaquiére's abilities and labours have not been fruitlessly employed.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE.

“January 16th, 1776.

“MY LORD,—I have received your Excellency's letter of the 8th instant, which will be immediately laid before the King's confidential servants. It gives me great concern that a measure which was thought so essential for the publick service, should seem to your Excellency so difficult in the execution, and so inconsistent with the security of the country under your administration. Your honor and reputation are objects of the King's attention ; and his Majesty's servants can never be unobservant of any circumstance that can, in the smallest degree, bring you into difficulties. I beg leave to add that every regard, on my part, shall be paid to your feelings upon this occasion ; and that you shall have the earliest information of any thing that shall be determined on this measure.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ 12 o'clock at night, January 16th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—It is very late, and your messenger is waiting in my hall ; I cannot, however, think of letting him go without expressing the uneasiness that your letter has given me. I do assure your Excellency, in the first place, that it is not the desire of his Majesty nor of his servants to distress you or to oblige you to quit your office. I am sure that they would find it very difficult to put any other person in your place. I hope to send you, in a day or two, a short abstract of the reasons which induced the law officers of the Crown to advise the omission of the two clauses in the money bill ; which, whether convincing or not, will, I am confident, prove to your Excellency that the alterations complained of might have been made without any view of distressing the government, or encroaching upon the legislature of Ireland. Mr. Lees will tell you that we have had under consideration how far we may with propriety consent to an act of parliament to remove the supposed difficulty concerning the 4,000 men ; and what sketch we can send over in

accordance with your Excellency's desire. If such a one can be framed, it shall be sent to Ireland before the end of the week. As to the eight regiments instead of the six, it was determined to order them to be kept in readiness that we might have a large force early in the spring. As to the augmentation of the dragoons and horse, it was suggested as an augmentation that might easily be made, notwithstanding the present difficulty of recruiting the infantry, and as one that would be very serviceable for the domestick uses of the country; it would supply also, in part, the two additional regiments taken out of the Kingdom. It is, however, the King's intention, as soon as he can do it, to replace these two regiments by two from England. Another motive for this method of recruiting the horse and dragoons was, that, upon your Excellency's representations, the King laid aside the purpose of augmenting the Irish army with the Scotch brigade from Holland. Some military men here likewise approve of having dismounted dragoons; and Preston's regiment now in Boston with Burgoyne's, which is going to America, are accordingly attended by a certain proportion of dismounted soldiers.

"I write so fast that I am afraid your Excellency will hardly be able to read my letter, but I trust that you will be able to decipher enough to shew you that you are not reduced to that

dilemma that you apprehend. If you were, I should consider it as a great misfortune to the publick, the King, and, if I may mention myself after them, to your faithful humble servant.

“P.S. His Majesty has not told me when he proposes to send the two regiments from England, but I suppose it will not be long before he does. They may perhaps be in Ireland before the eight regiments ordered for America can set sail. I will write to your Excellency again in a short time, till when I beg leave to refer myself to M^r. Lees, with whom I have had two conversations this morning.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“January 19th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I beg leave to trouble your Lordship with the enclosed papers. They were received yesterday from Cork, and will shew your Lordship how unable this establishment is to part with eight regiments, without manifest danger to the peace and quiet of this Kingdom. Your Lordship will see that the numbers required to make up the deficiencies in the regiments that are embarked amount to no less than 369, and are more than equivalent to some of the weak regiments on this establishment.

“I had reason to believe, some time ago, that the recruiting service would have been more successful than it has proved to be. The recruits were then coming in to the amount of about 400 a week; but instead of raising them at that rate, which would speedily have completed this establishment, I am sorry to say that we do not, at present, raise recruits enough to make good what we lose by desertion and the common casualties of the service.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt :—

“January 22nd, 1776.

“MY LORD,—I have laid before the King your Excellency’s two letters of the 28th Decem^{ber} and 8th instant. I am commanded by his Majesty to acquaint you that the present situation of affairs makes it essentially necessary that eight regiments should be taken from Ireland early in the spring. His Majesty’s confidential servants and law officers are clearly of opinion the Crown has a right to dispose of these troops in consequence of the addresses of the two houses of parliament only. Yet, as your Excellency acquaints me that prejudices unfortunately prevail in the Kingdom under your administration, in favor of a different opinion, and that your Excellency thinks your own honour and reputation are concerned in this measure, his Majesty, from these considerations, commands me to inform you that he has no objections to a declaratory act, the heads of which I transmit to your Excellency. At the same time, I am to acquaint you that you must be fully satisfied that such a bill will pass both houses, before you consent to its being proposed.

“With respect to the security of the country, to which his Majesty pays the most constant attention, I am to acquaint your Excellency that the 21st and 31st regiments will be sent from hence on the embarkation of the eight regiments now under orders.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“January 22nd, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—At the same time that your Excellency receives this letter you will receive, in a dispatch from the Secretary of State’s office, a sketch of an act of parliament, which, in the opinion of his Majesty’s servants, may be passed without prejudice to the prerogative of the Crown. The publick service requiring that the eight regiments should sail for America early in the spring, we flatter ourselves that this act will be sufficient to induce the parliament and people of Ireland to acquiesce willingly in their departure.

“Your Excellency is already fully apprised that the King’s servants here consider the addresses of the two Houses of the Irish parliament as sufficient to authorise his Majesty to send away the troops in question, and that we do not esteem this or any other act in the least degree necessary. As your Excellency, however, conceives some parliamentary proceeding requisite for your own honour and reputation, and for the satisfaction of Ireland, we have not the least objection to the

sketch enclosed in Lord Weymouth's letter, which, we hope, will contribute to remove the present ill-humour. Perhaps of all parliamentary proceedings the most regular and unexceptionable would be to send messages to the two Houses, informing them that, in consequence of their addresses, his Majesty had ordered six regiments to embark for America; to which they should, respectively, return answers of approbation. This, however, I only suggest for your Excellency's consideration. Our wish is to accommodate your Excellency's government, and to remove the uneasiness expressed by some members of the Irish parliament.

- Whichever method, either the messages and addresses last mentioned, or the act of parliament enclosed in the Secretary of State's letter, will best contribute to the end we have in view, will, in our opinion, be the most eligible. If your Excellency should prefer proceeding by act, two points seem important to be observed before the heads of the bill are moved in the House of Commons; the bill must not be known to have been drawn on this side of the water, and it must not be ventured unless with a very fair prospect of success. If it should be moved and rejected, we should be in a worse situation with respect to the troops than we are at present.

“So much for the act of parliament. As the two additional regiments are to be replaced from

hence, I suppose all your Excellency's difficulties on that head are over ; and I imagine there can be but little objection to the small augmentation of dismounted dragoons, who will be easily raised, and, in the judgment of military men, very useful both in the case of actual service and for domestic business in time of peace, as well as during the absence of those troops which the present exigency of affairs obliges his Majesty to withdraw from Ireland.

“Before I leave this subject I think it right to say a few words upon the two clauses which were omitted in the money bill, because that alteration has been the source of so much uneasiness and altercation, and because it has, I believe, been misunderstood on your side of the water. There is nothing clearer, in the opinion of every lawyer here, than that the preamble of an act of parliament barely *reciting* certain facts and the grounds for passing the act, but neither *declaring* nor *enacting* any thing *to be law*, has not the binding force of a statute. It would, therefore, certainly have been *unnecessary* at least to have passed an act to make that lawful which no prior statute had made unlawful ; but the objection did not rest there. If it were not necessary to leave the two clauses in the bill, it might have been of *very pernicious consequence* to have left them. It would, in the first place, have given countenance to the dan-

gerous practice of tacking to the heads of money bills matters of a different nature ; and it might seem to admit that a message from the Crown, with the preamble of an Irish act of parliament, could repeal a British act of parliament, and alter an established rule of the Constitution. There was not a member of the Privy Council who entertained the least suspicion that the clauses had been inserted in Ireland with any insidious design. We did the justice to the House of Commons and Privy Council of Ireland to believe that the clauses appeared to them necessary ; but, as upon a review of them by the law officers of the Crown they were found to be unnecessary, we thought it our duty to strike them out.

“The point was sometime under the consideration of the Council, and the act of 1769 carefully read. Our sentiments were unanimous. We all considered the preamble as *a record of a promise* made by the King, which it would be very *unbecoming* in him, but not *unlawful*, to break. We looked upon his Majesty as acquitted in *honour* by the addresses of the two Houses of Parliament ; and we could not find a word in the Irish statute book by which he was bound *in law*. I must do that justice to all the Attorney-Generals that I have remembered, to say that I believe they have made their reports according to the best of their judgments, and not with any view to

party or faction. If they have not done so, considering how much the Privy Council is guided by them, they have certainly been guilty of a very high and dangerous breach of duty. As to the case in question, I am persuaded that, except the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals, no person whatever knew the contents of their report, before it was submitted to the Council. Very few members of the Cabinet were present. The other Privy Councillors were in a greater number, though it was by no means a full committee. There was not the least appearance of concert or intrigue, and every resolution was taken without a dissenting voice.

“Before the resolution of the committee was confirmed by the King in Council, Mr. Allan arrived in London, and started in conversation with me the same opinion which prevails in Ireland. The Council was delayed. I desired Mr. Allan to point out to me by what law the King was obliged to maintain 12,000 men constantly in Ireland; but, after having heard every thing that could be said in favour of his opinion, and maturely reconsidered the question, I could not find any sufficient reason for bringing the business again before the Committee of Council. In the course of this business I perceived in no man the least unwillingness to give the fullest attention to every thing that could be said in favour of return-

ing the clauses ; and must declare it as my sincere opinion that in the whole of that transaction there was not the least inclination in any person here to give uneasiness to your Excellency. On the contrary, I have found in general a great readiness to facilitate your Excellency's wishes.

"I am afraid I have been tedious, but your Excellency's letters have alarmed me both on the Publick account, and on my own ; and I wish to remove every misunderstanding that may prejudice his Majesty's service.

"I have laid before the King your Excellency's applications for pensions and bounties, and the manner in which you would recommend the distribution of them. I will not conceal from you that he was a good deal startled at the greatness of the demand, so much beyond any that he had ever yet received ; but I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that his Majesty, being desirous of giving your Excellency every support, will consent to the whole arrangement contained in Sir John Blaquiere's letter to Mr. Robinson of the 15th of December, if you think it necessary. I am sorry to say that I cannot return the same affirmative to your request for Sir John. His Majesty has always laid it down as a rule that the Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant should, if possible, be provided for by such offices as have been usually given to his predecessors, without

being a burthen upon the revenue; unless the Lord Lieutenant should not have, during his government, an opportunity of providing for him in that manner; in which case his Majesty will, as he has done in another instance, consent to grant him a pension.

“Your Excellency will have received, by this time, the King’s letters in consequence of the addresses of the House of Lords, upon which I have only to observe that, considering the very little business a speaker of the House of Lords in Ireland has to do, he is nobly rewarded. The merit of the present Lord Chancellor is undoubtedly great, but these rewards, being granted to the office and not to the man, are more properly estimated by the fatigues of the office, than by the personal qualities of the officer. By the various additions made to the income of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland I compute that his office must, by this time, be worth about £8,500 a year, which is, I believe, above £2,000 per annum more than is received by the Chief Justice of England.

“I understand, from Sir John Blaquiére’s letter, that the House of Commons, in recommending salaries of £3,500 per annum to the Vice-Treasurers and Clerk of the Pells, intended that they should receive in England above £2,500 a year. That being the case, the King’s letter must be so drawn as to excuse them from the payment

of the sixpenny poundage ; and, indeed, it seems most natural that they should be allowed to retain in their hands, every quarter, one fourth of their salary. They will, otherwise, be subject to delays, to which they were not liable when they were paid by fees. I mention these circumstances as I am informed that your Excellency has a draft of a King's letter for the payment of these salaries now under consideration.

“I have been much solicited by Lord Lyttelton to apply to your Excellency in behalf of his brother-in-law, Lord Valentia ; and I have undertaken to desire you to recommend him for a seat at the council board, and to appoint him a trustee of the linen manufacture, whenever you can do so consistently with prior engagements. It is possible that this may embarrass your Excellency, and I shall be sorry for it ; but it would be of service to me if you would return me a favorable answer, and send his name to his Majesty as a Privy Councillor amongst the first promotions that you recommend.

“I apprehend that it is not necessary now to enter into any discussion concerning Peerages. I shall hope that his Majesty will, in the next creation of Irish Peers, include some members of the British Parliament. Their names, and the titles they desire, shall soon be communicated to your Excellency.

“I am, &c.”

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“January 22nd, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—In my letter to your Excellency which I wrote this morning, I forgot to mention one matter of great importance. The immense quantity of provisions that we shall want for our armies in North America; the demands from the West India Islands which, from henceforward, must be furnished almost entirely from Ireland; the orders from the French and Spaniards, which, as we are informed, are likely to be very considerable; render it absolutely necessary to lay an embargo on all provisions exported from Ireland to foreign parts, in order to confine the exportation entirely to our own armies and to the British dominions. We have postponed the embargo as long as possible, but it now becomes unavoidable.

“I trust that the Irish gentlemen and merchants will not think they have any reason to complain, as there is a real danger that his Majesty’s own subjects and soldiers may be in excessive want of provisions; and as our demands will be so large that we shall certainly, in the course of the next year, take their whole stock off their hands, I thought it right to give your Excellency this notice, and you will probably in a few days receive an order to lay the embargo.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“January 24th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have had the favour of your Lordship’s letter, and am really more obliged to you than I have words to express. Your friendship does me great honour, and I should be very sorry to do any thing to forfeit it. When the particular circumstances of my late conduct are considered, they will appear in no unfavourable light. It has ever been my ambition to employ whatever credit I have here for the advancement of his Majesty’s interest; and while I act a consistent part it may be in my power to do his Majesty some little service. I have endeavoured to be punctiliously observant of my engagements with the people of this country; which has been of no small advantage to me on several occasions. If I am attentive to matters that immediately concern my own character, I ought not to be less attentive to what are ever supposed to be the engagements of the Crown. Though the gentlemen of the long robe may not think the Crown is absolutely engaged, by the declaration in the money bill, not to withdraw any part of the 12,000 men from this Kingdom;

yet, if it happens to be the prevailing and general opinion that it is binding as an engagement on the part of the Crown, not to be done away by the addresses of the two Houses, and that the engagement was considered as the price of the augmentation in 1769; would it not, my dear Lord, have been highly criminal in me to have betrayed the Crown into a measure the most impolitic, with regard to this country, that could be proposed, because the most likely to destroy that mutual confidence which ought ever to subsist between his Majesty and his subjects? If I had treated this subject with less freedom I should have been wanting in my duty; for, by concealing from his Majesty the true state of things, I might have involved this government in endless difficulties.

“I hope I have said enough to exculpate myself, and that I shall not be thought to have acted in a manner inconsistent with my duty to the King, and my most unalterable attachment to his person. If what I have urged should happen to have so much weight in his Majesty's Councils as to remove the difficulties that have alarmed me, and make it practicable for me to serve his Majesty any longer in this station, I shall continue to do it with the greatest zeal and attention to the end of this session, and till such time as the new parliament is chosen. And, if

I have the good fortune to see such a one as his Majesty shall approve of, I shall then make it my most humble request to be removed from this responsible station, which is attended with too many cares and anxieties for a person of my time of life.

“I am, &c.”

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ March 25th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Mr. Lees, who leaves this place early to-morrow morning, will deliver to your Excellency two ostensible letters from me ; one respecting Mr. Pery, and the other Mr. Flood. Your Excellency will know how to make the proper use of them. With respect to the first, as there is an allusion to his Majesty, some caution will be necessary in the communication of it.

“With these two letters your Excellency will receive his Majesty’s consent to the Peerages you have recommended. He has still some difficulty about the Marquisates, which, he apprehends, will give offence to the Earls of Great Britain, and will induce some applications for the same rank and title here. I am not, therefore, able to give an affirmative answer to this part of your Excellency’s list of honours ; but for the Peerages, Baronetcies, and advancements in the Peerage, your Excellency may venture to recommend them with assurance of success. There is, however, the Peerage for Mr^s. St. Leger (for which Lord Townshend was earnest some time ago, out of respect

to the memory of Mr. St. Leger, and for the sake of his family), which nobody seems to have now much at heart, and which, unless your Excellency sees any reason for pressing it, may perhaps be postponed, especially as the person who is the immediate object of it is, as I am informed, leading no very reputable life in a foreign country.

“His Majesty’s opinion upon the proposition for the Duke of Leinster and his friends is entered in the margin of a paper that Mr. Lees carries with him, and will, I hope, be satisfactory.

“I am sorry that, by some mistake, your Excellency should have received, from the Secretary of State, a disapprobation of the manner you took to complete the 4,000 men. You may depend upon it that I have done justice to your zeal for his Majesty’s service, in your plan of completing the regiments for the American army, and that his Majesty is sensible of it. The letter was written hastily upon a military complaint, made without knowledge of the real state of the case.

“It is with real concern that I foresee a dispute between English government and the Irish parliament upon the old subject of the money bill. The entry in our Council books of the proceedings in 1760 is so formal; the proceedings themselves were so solemn; the practice of certifying money bills so uniform; the danger of our deviating from the ancient course so alarming to many

persons on this side of the water ; that we shall, I believe, be forced to adhere to former usage. That our bill will be rejected is certain. What I hope is that it may be rejected without reasons, and the repetition of the transactions of 1768 be thereby avoided. If there is any point upon which all parties here have always agreed, and upon which the chiefs of all parties have declared themselves, it is upon the maintenance of the ancient Constitution of Ireland. Whatever alterations time may have introduced we cannot countenance them by any act of the Privy Council without incurring universal censure.

“ I am, &c.”

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ *March 25th, 1776.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—While your Excellency is busied in your preparations for meeting the new parliament in Ireland, I hope you will forgive me if I trouble you with a few words upon the choice of a Speaker. Although I should imagine that the great satisfaction Mr. Pery has given during the whole course of the present parliament must ensure his success against any other candidate, I must beg leave to recommend his cause to your favor, and to desire that you will give him every assistance that you can with propriety. The high esteem

which I have conceived for him makes me earnestly desirous of seeing him again in the Chair ; but I should not presume to recommend him thus warmly to your Excellency, if I were not convinced that the choice would be extremely useful, as well as creditable, to the parliament and Kingdom of Ireland, and if I could not venture to add that it will be very agreeable in a quarter where your Excellency will always wish to give satisfaction.

“ I am, &c.”

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ *March 25th, 1776.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I beg pardon for not having answered the letters which your Excellency has honored me with upon the subject of Mr. Flood, but I really am not yet able to give a satisfactory, or even a perfectly decisive, answer. This he will probably have learnt by this time, if the Bishop of Chester has reported to him a short conversation I had with his Lordship upon the same business. That I should be very happy to have the assistance of Mr. Flood’s abilities in the House of Commons cannot admit of a doubt, but I am really so embarrassed by a variety of applications for seats in the House of Commons to which I am obliged to give attention, that I cannot at present

venture to promise to bring Mr. Flood or any other person into parliament. * Several of my friends were unsuccessful candidates at the general election ; others have been since displaced by the decisions of the Committees of election ; so that many persons are to be served, and few, very few, opportunities offer of serving them. Your Excellency sees how impossible it is for me, as yet, to undertake to procure a seat for Mr. Flood in our House of Commons ; and I have so often drawn myself into perplexity and distress by entering into engagements for distant periods, that I hope your Excellency will not expect me to make any promise which I am not pretty sure of following immediately by the performance. In the meanwhile I must desire your Excellency to assure Mr. Flood that I think myself much obliged to him for his proposal, and that there is no person on this side of the water who will be readier, on all occasions, to obey his commands than, &c."

From Lord North to Sir John Blaquiere :—

" March 25th, 1776.

" DEAR SIR,—I am glad to learn from you that the return of the election bill, even castrated as it was, gave satisfaction in Ireland. It was with great difficulty that more alterations were pre-

vented ; for, to be sure, at the first view, such regulations at the eve of a general election did not appear to indifferent spectators, proper, usual, decent, or fair. We, who know the necessity of the measure, maintained the whole except the tenure years in the borough clause, which appeared the most manifestly calculated to favour the interests of particular men, and was, in that light, very offensive to several of the Council.

“ I rejoice to find that your revenues have turned out so well this year. If this election year does not cause any jobs in the management of the revenues, it will, I apprehend, rather increase the excise. However, I would not have the canvassing last, on that account, a moment longer than it is necessary. You will receive, in a few days, his Majesty's authority for dissolving the parliament and calling a new one. There are strong reasons that oblige us to persist in the old custom of requiring that a money bill may be certified as a cause of calling the new parliament. I am sorry for it, as I foresee a very unpleasant dispute with your new House of Commons, unless you can prevail upon them to be satisfied with rejecting the bill without the addition of offensive reasons.

“ Adieu, dear Sir ;

“ Believe me ever, &c.”

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ March 27th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Your Irish messenger is returning with the official authority for the dissolution of parliament. Soon after you receive the packet he carries with him, the post will bring your Excellency a letter from the Secretary of State respecting the government of the army in Ireland, which will not, I am afraid, coincide with your sentiments. My attachment and regard to your Excellency, and my desire of standing well in your opinion, make it, therefore, necessary for me to assure you that I had no share in forming these regulations; and that his Majesty's resolution had been declared, and Lord Weymouth's letter written, before I had any communication of the proposed arrangement. Indeed I believe that military advice had been principally relied upon in forming the plan; and that the Secretary of State, though the writer of the letter, had not much more concern in it than your humble servant.

“I do not mention these circumstances in order to find fault with the design, of which I am not, perhaps, a proper judge; although, upon reading the rules, I cannot help, at first sight, being of opinion that some of them are more likely to create than to remove disagreements between the

Lord Lieutenant and the Commander in chief. My principal reason for troubling you is to prevent any hasty resolution your Excellency may take on the receipt of Lord Weymouth's letter. I probably fancy dangers which do not exist; but, in a matter that concerns the publick so intimately, I cannot help feeling great uneasiness. If your Excellency should think it necessary to quit your station immediately you would infinitely distress your humble servant; and, what is of more importance, the affairs of his Majesty and the Publick. I trust, however, that as your Excellency has already signified your intention of resigning your employment in a short time, you will not think yourself bound in honor to advance the moment of your resignation. If you should see any serious and solid objections to the plan proposed, I should rather wish that you would, in your answer to the Secretary of State, set them forth in a full, firm, and temperate manner. Your Excellency's advice in your present situation, as it cannot affect yourself, would have great weight, be very honorable to yourself, and, possibly, beneficial to your successors and the publick.

"Your Excellency will excuse the trouble of this letter from the motive of it, which I can safely declare to be a desire to prevent any mischief to his Majesty's service, and to shew my real and warm attachment to your Excellency. I need

not desire you to keep this letter secret. I write in a great hurry, which you will excuse.

“ I am, &c.

“ P.S. I thought it might be convenient to your Excellency to accompany my letter by a copy of Lord Weymouth’s, which you will, by this means, receive a short time before the arrival of the post.

“ N.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

“January 28th, 1776.

“MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship’s letter of the 22nd, enclosing heads of a declaratory act, to obviate the doubts with respect to the sending 4,000 men out of this Kingdom; stating the very urgent necessity there is for taking eight regiments upon the present situation of affairs; and his Majesty’s intention of sending into Ireland, upon the embarkation of these regiments, the 21st and 31st regiments.

“As I have so fully, in my former letters on this head, mentioned what appeared to me to be the general sense of gentlemen in this Kingdom, together with my own humble opinion and apprehensions on the subject, I shall not now trouble your Lordship with a single word more than appears to me indispensably necessary.

“With respect to the heads of the bill which your Lordship has sent me, I must beg leave to observe, that it will, in my opinion, be essential to alter or transpose some words in the latter part of it, in order to avoid all possibility of doubt

with regard to the payment of these forces. And the words I shall propose are these ; that after the word 'Relate,' the paragraph may run thus, '*so far as they relate to the four thousand men to be sent out of this Kingdom,*' and which I hold to be indispensable ; as I am persuaded the House of Commons will expect that the charge of paying these troops, when out of the Kingdom, must, in some shape or other, be avowed.

" These words appear to me to be the least exceptionable ; and, as they relate alone to supply, I should hope they will meet with no difficulty at the hands of any of his Majesty's servants ; as I presume it could not have been the intention of the framers of the clause to raise a doubt upon the subject. With this small alteration it is my opinion such heads of a bill would pass this House of Commons. Your Lordship would not, I am persuaded, wish that I should pledge myself for the absolute certainty of an event which it is not in my power to command ; but, in the hopes and expectation of your Lordship's returning it to me, and without delay, in the manner I have desired, I have, this day, ordered the eight regiments to prepare to embark for foreign service, and have the honour to be, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

“February 5th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Among the bills that go over this evening there is an act for making the Commissions of Judges to continue *quamdiu se bene gesserint*. This bill was first moved and rejected in the House of Lords, but it afterwards was moved and passed in the House of Commons, and met with a more favourable reception in the Council than it deserved; owing, partly, to the Council’s not being very well attended, and partly to the complaisance of some members of the Privy Council, who paid a greater deference to the opinions of the Lord Chief Justices than they ought to have done on that occasion. I am persuaded that, the state of this country duly considered, it would be very unadvisable to make the Commissions of Judges to continue during such a tenure; and so many inconveniences would infallibly result from such a bill, that I trust it will not be deemed proper to return it to Ireland.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Mr. Robinson, Secretary of the Treasury :—

“ February 5th, 1776.

“MY DEAR SIR,—The warmest acknowledgments bear no proportion to my feelings for the exceeding anxiety and kindness of your letter dictated to Lees. I own, however, there is somewhat in this whole business on your side the water that strikes me with astonishment as well as with disappointment.

“ The question appears to me not a question of legal refinement, as to whether the King is bound *by law* to keep 12,000 men in Ireland. The question is, how far his Majesty can most easily and effectually get rid of his engagement to his people of Ireland, without the imputation of breach of faith, without sacrificing the honour of his representative, and without risking the loss of the affections of his subjects in this quiet and peaceable Kingdom. All the lawyers who have spoken upon the subject, in debate, have given their opinions against the power of moving the forces.

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"All the great officers of state have concurred in that view without a negative.

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"My Lord North wished to have 4,000 men for his Majesty's service in America. They are no sooner had, than his Excellency is told he was too expeditious in meeting his Majesty's wishes. Foreigners are offered to replace them. The offer is refused by the Irish parliament; whereupon his Majesty is said to be displeased, and the message promising payment from the British treasury for the 4,000 men is disclaimed.

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"My Lord Harcourt has been very unfortunate indeed, and the humble aspirations of his Secretary will be most miserably disappointed, if, after carrying every measure that had been thought most necessary, during the course of two critical and difficult sessions, this laborious but ill-fated scene is to conclude with a prospect of the King's displeasure. A displeasure founded upon the misrepresentation of those who are supposed to have hostile intentions, ostensibly to Lord Harcourt's, but, in truth, to Lord North's, administration. It is in vain to speak or write more upon such a subject.

"And now, my dear friend, that I have thrown my whole heart before you, give me leave, in the

warmest emotions of it, to offer you those affectionate acknowledgments that are due to your uniform kindness and flattering attention to your faithful, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“February 8th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—The House is still sitting on the revenue bill, in which a considerable progress will be made this week, if gentlemen can be prevailed upon to postpone taking into consideration the proclamation for laying an embargo on provisions. This has occasioned great uneasiness here, from an apprehension of its putting a stop to the exportation of corn, at a time when grain of all sorts is in greater plenty than it was ever known to be in this Kingdom.

“Sir John Blaquiere will give your Lordship a more particular account of the effect which the embargo may have if the exportation of all sorts of grain is thereby proposed to be stopped. Considering the cheapness of all kind of corn at this time in North America, I can scarce believe such a prohibition to be intended by Great Britain.

“I have my doubts as to the effects the embargo may have on other provisions, because I fear the purpose of government may in some measure be defeated by the quantities of salted

stuffs that have already been exported. Of 9,000 barrels of beef that the French contracted for at Cork, 6,900 were shipped off before the 22nd of December; and part of 3,000 barrels which were contracted for at Dublin have already been sent away. But your Lordship shall soon have a more accurate account of these articles from,

“My dear Lord, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“*February 15th, 1776.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,—The House of Commons sat last night upon the consideration of the declaratory law until 9 o'clock. The gentlemen in opposition complained exceedingly of the insufficiency and inadequacy of the heads of a bill. They again asserted the legal obligation upon the King to keep 12,000 men constantly in this Kingdom, and that this not being an enabling act was an artful delusion of administration. The Prime Serjeant again declared his former opinion expressly, that the King was legally bound; and in this he speaks the sentiments of all the Shannons (Lord Shannon being at his elbow). The Provost repeatedly declared that the man who should advise touching one of the 12,000 men, without being warranted by a law, would be the object of Parliamentary impeachment, and ought

to lose his head. The Attorney-General, who was present by express desire, never opened his mouth to assert his Majesty's right to remove the forces by law; though it is said that his Majesty's servants in Great Britain are unanimous in their opinion as to the matter of right. The Speaker was silent on the occasion. So that I am warranted to say that every man who has given his public opinion, has declared that the King is, by the augmentation clause in the money bill, legally or constitutionally, as well as personally, bound to keep at all times except in cases of rebellion or invasion, in Great Britain, 12,000 men in this Kingdom. I have been the more particular on this subject, from my wish to justify the earnestness with which I took the liberty of urging the necessity of a declaratory law to warrant the removing these forces.

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"Several amendments were proposed, but the principal one, on which the House divided, was 'that such part of his Majesty's army as shall be spared out of this Kingdom shall not be continued a charge on this establishment so long as they shall remain out of this Kingdom.' The result of the division was the Noes 70, the Ayes only 25. This, I hope, will be the last your Lordship will hear on this subject. I thank God it has ended well, and, upon the whole, I flatter myself

the Crown will be no loser by this declaratory act.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. To-morrow, or on Saturday at furthest, it is thought we shall get through the revenue bill; after which there will be the Proclamation for the embargo, which will be taken into consideration on the 22nd; then there will be a short recess till the bills return."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"February 23rd, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—My mind is so impressed with your Lordship's generous behaviour towards me on a late critical occasion, that I should be wanting to myself if I did not take the very earliest opportunity of making my most sincere acknowledgments for the very honourable testimony you gave of your approbation of my public conduct. I was under very little apprehension of any thing that could happen to me in consequence of Mr. Townshend's motion; but, I own, from your very responsible station, I was under some anxiety till I heard the result of the debate. The fact of the motion being in reality levelled at your Lordship, afforded you an opportunity of justifying your conduct.

"I must add how very timely the arrival of

your second proclamation was. If we had not received it before that matter was discussed in the House, I do, in my conscience, believe we should have lost the question, which, at this time, might have been attended with the most serious consequences.

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"I must entreat your Lordship's kind interposition with the Attorney and Solicitor Generals in behalf of our bills.

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"If we could have them all back by the 10th of March, we should have time to pass them by Lady day; after which we should be ready to obey his Majesty's commands whenever he should think proper to have this parliament dissolved. The great expense which gentlemen are liable to, who have contested elections, makes them extremely impatient, and desirous of getting their elections over as soon as possible. In addition also to the ease and convenience of the parties concerned, I may venture to assure you that nothing is more material for the welfare of this Kingdom than the shortening the time of riot and disorder that prevail before a general election. The sending back the bills, therefore, as soon as possible, will be for the advantage of his Majesty, and the good of the Kingdom.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

“ February 23rd, 1776.

“ MY LORD,—I have the honour of acquainting your Lordship, for his Majesty’s information, that the 9th, 20th, and 34th regiments of foot, which make part of the six regiments now under orders of embarkation, are in motion from this garrison to Cork, where the whole will be assembled, pursuant to his Majesty’s orders, by the 10th of next month.

“ I have been revolving in my mind in what possible manner those corps, which, by the monthly state of the army for January, appear to want 848 men of their proper numbers on this Establishment, might be completed. This cannot be expected by recruiting, as it goes on so very slowly ; and which, even if the men could be raised, would but indifferently answer the purpose of his Majesty’s service on this very important occasion. It has occurred to me that, by means of the Kilmainham Pensioners who, previous to their being incorporated into Companies, might be embodied into the regiments remaining in Ireland, a very effectual draft of disciplined men might be made from those nine regiments into the six now ordered for embarkation. I have taken the opinion of General Gisborne, and he entirely concurs with me on the subject ; I have, therefore, given orders

that the nine regiments which are to remain in this Kingdom shall furnish 90 drafts each towards supplying the said deficiency. This number, making 810 men, together with the recruits which may be supposed to be raised between this time and that of their embarkation, will probably more than fully complete those corps.

“I propose that, in order to replace, as far as possible, these drafts, the said nine regiments shall receive such of the Kilmainham Pensioners as shall appear to be most serviceable and fit for duty.

“I have directed the Commander in chief to order two guineas to each Pensioner so incorporated, in order to provide them with necessaries. They are, however, not to be sent out of this Kingdom, or put upon any severe duty, and there are, besides, many other regulations which General Gisborne has judiciously given for accommodating this scheme to the necessary services of the country. This measure will afford time to replace those pensioners by recruits, without lessening, I hope, in any material degree, the nominal strength of the infantry.

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“Your Lordship knows the difficulties under which we stand. It is, however, needless for me to trouble you with a recital of them.

“I have already employed several officers from

our half-pay to assist in the carrying on this business. I shall, at a future day, notify their names to your Lordship for commissions in the ten companies of invalids to be raised in this Kingdom.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

“*February 28th, 1776.*”

“MY LORD,—The heads of a bill for establishing a Militia for a limited time, and in such parts of this Kingdom as the Lord Lieutenant shall think fit, appear to me not undeserving the attention of your Lordship and the rest of his Majesty’s servants.

“Your Lordship will find that the power of array is entirely in the hands of government. That it is in effect partial to such counties only as it may be thought expedient to arm. That the force may be used as a guard of police, which would be very advantageous in some counties; and prevent the risings that have so frequently disturbed them. That it, the force, would be liable to be called upon to support the officers of the revenue, under the authority of our writ of assistants. That the act, in point of time, is limited to three years. That the numbers of men are limited, which confines the expense.

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“That the measure will, in all probability, further the recruiting service of the army; as there is a clause which discharges from the Militia all such as shall enlist in the King’s troops. Upon the whole, it is a bill which I wish to see returned to this country. I think it will be for the advantage of the Kingdom, and the benefit of his Majesty’s government. I shall, therefore, take upon me warmly to recommend it to your Lordship’s consideration and protection.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth:—

“March 2nd, 1776.”

“MY LORD,—Sir John Irwin, Commander in chief of his Majesty’s forces in this Kingdom, in his letter to me of the 20th past, has informed me that his Majesty considers him Commander in chief of the army in Ireland, whether he be in London, or attending upon me in Ireland. In consequence, I have received from him military memorials and applications from London, which he has transmitted to me for my determination, in the same manner as if personally present here. I take the liberty of acquainting your Lordship, for his Majesty’s information, that, in the absence of the Commander in chief from this Kingdom,

the practice has invariably been for the military business to be transacted by the general officer acting as Commander in chief for the time being. There is no precedent of any kind whatever to be found wherein an absent Commander in chief interfered officially in any public military matter which was to be submitted to this government. All orders and directions have always been addressed to the general commanding for the time being, in the forms expressed in the enclosed paper, which consists of extracts from the military books in my chief secretary's office.

"Your Lordship knows that, by his Majesty's instructions, I am directed to correspond with none but your Lordship and the Lords of the Treasury. I cannot, therefore, agreeably to those instructions, possibly receive his Majesty's pleasure through any other channel excepting that of his Majesty's Secretary at War through the hands of my chief secretary. I most humbly beg leave to request of your Lordship that I may be honoured with any commands his Majesty may think proper to give me through the usual channel.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt :—

“ March 4th, 1776.

“ MY LORD,—I have received, and laid before the King, your Excellency’s letter of the 23rd of last month. Soon after the date of that letter, your Excellency will have seen the measures taken here towards completing the six regiments under orders for embarkation at Cork ; and, therefore, it would have been fortunate if you had postponed putting into execution the plan contained in your said letter, until it had been communicated to me for his Majesty’s information.

“ A ship with about 300 German recruits is now at sea, destined for Cork ; two others are gone to Stade for more recruits for the same place, which will nearly complete the said regiments ; and, therefore, as soon as your Excellency shall have been apprised of the steps taken here, you will certainly have stopped some of the drafts. It is his Majesty’s pleasure that those not already drafted should be left with their corps, but those that have joined the six regiments should continue with them.

“I am to add, that his Majesty does not approve of your Excellency's having promised the men drafted from the out-pensioners of Kilmainham Hospital that they shall not go out of the Kingdom, as those on the Chelsea Pension have never that indulgence; and, indeed, 400 of them have been sent this year to Minorca.

“I am, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

“ March 13th, 1776.

“MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship’s letter of the 4th instant, acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 23rd of last month, and signifying that it would have been fortunate if I had postponed putting into execution the plan contained in my said letter, until it had been communicated to your Lordship for his Majesty’s information.

“You inform me that a ship, with about 300 German recruits is now at sea, destined for Cork. That two other ships are gone to Stade for more recruits for the same place ; which would nearly complete the six regiments.

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“And that it is his Majesty’s pleasure that those drafts which are not already transferred should be left with their corps ; but that those who have joined the said six regiments should continue with them.

“You tell me that his Majesty does not approve of my having promised the men drafted from the

out-pensioners of Kilmainham that they should not go out of this Kingdom, as those on the Chelsea pension never had such an indulgence.

"In obedience to his Majesty's commands, above mentioned, I have issued orders to General Gisborne that those drafts which have not been already delivered should be left with their corps, but that those who have joined the said six regiments should continue with them.

"In answer to the other parts of your Lordship's letter, I beg leave to observe to you that, in your letter of 13th January, your Lordship signified to me his Majesty's pleasure that each of the regiments ordered for embarkation should be raised, with the utmost expedition, to the British Establishment of 677 men, officers included. Furthermore, that his Majesty relied upon my exerting my utmost endeavours to carry into execution that service in the speediest possible manner. In your Lordship's letter of the 13th February, you signified his Majesty's pleasure to me that the said six regiments should be ready to embark upon *the 10th of this instant March*. It was not until *the 4th of this month*, on which day I received your Lordship's letter dated the 28th past, that I had any intimation whatever of a body of German recruits being intended to complete those corps.

"It will, therefore, appear to your Lordship,

from the dates of these letters, that I must have failed exceedingly in my duty to his Majesty's commands for completing the said six regiments in the speediest manner, if I had protracted taking the necessary measures for that purpose until within six days of the time appointed by his Majesty for their embarkation. I trust that, when his Majesty shall have been informed of these circumstances, he will be satisfied that in every step I have taken in this matter I have endeavoured to justify that reliance upon my zeal for his service which his Majesty was graciously pleased to express; and that if there has been any failure in fulfilling his Majesty's intentions, it will be imputed to my not having received timely notice of them.

"With regard to the promise given to the out-pensioners, your Lordship will give me leave to observe, that, except by embodying these pensioners into the marching regiments that are to remain in this Kingdom, it would not have been possible to make any effective draft for the regiments going to America. The invalids were only intended to remain in the marching regiments until they should have made some progress in their recruiting. In proportion as good recruits were got, the invalids would be drafted into the invalid companies which have been ordered to be raised in this Kingdom. Therefore, the pro-

mise made to these men determines upon their being returned to the Kilmainham pension, or incorporated into the invalid companies; when they will remain at his Majesty's disposal for such service as he shall judge proper.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"March 13th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I take the liberty of troubling your Lordship with the enclosed copy of my letter to Lord Weymouth, in justification of my conduct, which, on a late very critical occasion, had the misfortune to meet with his Majesty's disapprobation, when I least expected it. If due attention is paid to the dates of the letters that passed between Lord Weymouth and myself, I trust it will appear that there was neither imprudence nor inattention in my conduct; but that I took the best and indeed the only method of carrying out that which I had been advised was the thing the King had most at heart. While the affair of the 4,000 men was still depending in parliament, the least mention of drafting the other corps to complete the numbers would have proved fatal to that measure, which was already involved in many difficulties. The moment I found myself at liberty to second his Majesty's wishes, I took

the only effectual method of doing it. I have so much reliance on his Majesty's justice, and have experienced his goodness to me in so many instances, that I flatter myself, when his Majesty shall be fully possessed of all the particular circumstances of the affair, he will be graciously pleased to entertain a less unfavourable opinion of my late conduct, in one of the most critical and hazardous transactions that ever came under the management of a Lord Lieutenant.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt :—

“ March 26th, 1776.

“ MY LORD,—A paper was, some short time since, presented to his Majesty by the Commander in chief of his Majesty’s forces in Ireland, containing ‘Hints that are submitted in consequence of some difference in opinion that has arisen relative to the mode of conducting the Military department of Ireland;’ to which paper Sir John Irwine has added some observations which, I am informed, had been communicated to your Excellency. His Majesty has commanded me to lay this paper again before him, together with your Excellency’s letter of the 2nd instant. After the fullest consideration the King is pleased to direct that the following rules respecting the method of communicating and carrying on the military business of Ireland be, in future, observed.

“ The Commander in chief to have free access to the Lord Lieutenant, either in person or in writing, on all military business; and to receive all orders from the Lord Lieutenant or through his Secretary.

"All opinions and recommendations of the Commander in chief, whether approved or not, to be transmitted to the King.

"In the appointment to new or vacant Commissions the Lord Lieutenant will frequently shew attention to the recommendations of the Commander in chief.

"The Commander in chief to have full communication of all letters on military business which the Lord Lieutenant shall receive from his Majesty's Secretary of State.

"In order that the Deputy Adjutant General and Deputy Quarter Master General may be always resident, those appointments in future will be by the nomination of the King, instead of by Commission, whenever either of those offices shall become vacant. It is his Majesty's pleasure that whenever the regiments to which officers filling those posts belong shall leave the Kingdom, new persons may be appointed.

"It is not necessary that a general officer should constantly be resident at Cork; but he should be ready to go there whenever the service may require it.

"The Commander in chief to be appointed to preside at the barrack board whenever he shall think proper, but to receive no emoluments from such appointment.

"The Commander in chief, though resident in

England, shall not be deemed to exceed the bounds of his Commission by transmitting the memorials of officers to the Lord Lieutenant which he shall receive in this country.

“These regulations his Majesty has thought essential to his service ; and directs that, in future, they be fixed and permanent rules. His Majesty cannot doubt, from your Excellency’s attachment to his person, and your well-known zeal for his service, that you will readily conform to them, and, on all occasions, endeavour to promote a perfect conciliation with the Commander in chief ; and that, on his part, he will pay all proper respect to your Excellency and to the high office you so worthily occupy.

“ I am, &c.”

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to the Earl of
Rochford :—

“ March 27th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Report has told me, shall I be permitted to believe it? that, because my Lord Harcourt has given drafts to the regiments about to embark, for the sake of carrying out a measure the nearest to his Majesty’s heart, and which my Lord North had most particularly desired, that the service is now no longer a matter of merit in Lord Harcourt, but possibly something very much otherwise; which, in truth, Lord Weymouth’s letters rather confirm than contradict.

“Good God, my Lord, is it possible? Is it to be believed that because Lord Harcourt is disposed to anticipate every thing which is said to be a wish in his Majesty’s mind, and that he has placed himself, like St. Lawrence, upon the grid-iron for his service, that he receives daily, for his remuneration, every thing which the most malignant whispers can propagate against his conduct? Let us see how the case really stands.

* * * * *

“Let me request you to read my Lord Wey-

mouth's despatches, though their coarseness may shock you, and see my Lord Harcourt's answer of the 13th instant. You will there find, my dear Lord, that Lord Harcourt was called upon as it were by his allegiance, and even officially, by this gentleman, to complete the regiments ordered for America. You will see that these regiments were ordered to embark on the 10th instant, and that it was not till the 4th of the month, only six days previous to the day ordered for the embarkation, that we ever heard a syllable about completing them with German recruits. We heard enough, it is true, about Scotch-Dutch; but I will aver upon my honour that, till six days previous to the time of embarkation, not a whisper was heard of the German recruits.

"What would have been said, my dear Lord, if his Excellency had remained passive at this time? Having by dint of ability and management got the possibility into his hands, what might not malignancy have whispered upon such conduct? What would it not have done? My Lord, there was a time when it was impossible, when the bare mention of such an idea would have damned the entire measure. It was an object of great contention in the House. One of the points of the first magnitude. If we give them 4,000 men, said gentlemen, you take away half our force, half our defence, we shall not sleep

with security in our beds. No, says administration, only one third of your force is desired. If the 12,000 were effective, 4,000 effective would be asked, but, being nominal, nominal numbers only will be taken from you. So it stood till the declaratory bill had passed the House; when the idea of substituting invalids for our very best soldiers was broached. Had it been whispered before, it had been dangerous. You had lost the six regiments entire—which, let me tell you, incomplete as they were granted, was still a larger force than was asked from England, and recommended as the most meritorious and acceptable service that could possibly be done to the King.

“This, my dear Lord, is the history of these two transactions. Do you forgive my boring you with them?

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“I wish to state these facts. They are stubborn and tough, and will shew mercy to no man. But, the truth is, my Lord Harcourt has been too long in Ireland, or, in the minds of jealous, interested, and malignant men, he has, during his residence in this Kingdom, succeeded too well in every thing he has been commanded to undertake for his Majesty’s service. In some, and those not the least material, he has anticipated his commands upon the surmise of his wishes. But every thing will have an end; Lord Harcourt, I fancy,

has had as much of it as he can well carry. No circumstance can shake the attachment he bears to his Majesty's person. But I fancy your Lordship knows he has had enough of the Lieutenancy of Ireland.

* * * * *

"I hope it will not be many months before I kiss your hands in London. Adieu, my dear Lord.

"I remain, and it is one of my cordialest comforts,

"Your, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ March 29th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I was under great anxiety with regard to the new powers intended to be granted to the Commander in chief. Whatever they may be, I believe very little doubt remains that they will supersede those which I derive from my patent; those that my predecessors have so amply exercised, and which, I trust, have never been abused by me. If such, however, should be his Majesty's pleasure, I would beg leave to make it my request that any alterations which his Majesty shall think expedient to make may be suspended till after my return to England; which I hope his Majesty will be graciously pleased to allow me to do after the new parliament is chosen. This, my dear Lord, seems to be the best expedient, and perhaps the only means of facilitating any new arrangements that may be deemed necessary, and the only way to save my honour and reputation from everlasting disgrace.

“After an absence of near three years and a half from my family and friends; and after the fatigues of two of the most interesting sessions

that have been known in Ireland; and in the sixty-third year of my age, I own myself quite unequal to the constant care and solicitude that attend this responsible station. I am persuaded it is no less for his Majesty's interest, than for the comfort of my life, that I should be permitted to retire from this government, which calls for more activity than I am master of. In a letter to your Lordship, about two months ago, I threw out a wish of this sort.

"In answer to a letter of Duke Harcourt's, who acquainted me of his second son's having the *cor-don bleu*, I fairly own that I expressed a wish that it might be in my power to pay him a visit in Normandy towards the autumn; for I had no reason to imagine that his Majesty would find any difficulty in the choice of a person to succeed me. I am sorry the nature of the subject has obliged me to say so much of myself, but I promise your Lordship, for the future, to give you as little trouble of that sort as possible, but at all times, and on all occasions, to assure you that

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

"April 5th, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I received the honour of your Lordship's official letter of the 26th of March, sig-

nifying to me his Majesty's pleasure with respect to the rules and method of communicating and carrying on the military business for the future to be observed in Ireland.

"If I had not already made it my most humble request to his Majesty for leave to return to his Royal presence, I should now think myself indispensably obliged to ask that favour; because I am apprehensive that this method of carrying on the military business will, for the future, lower the Chief Governor in the opinion of the public, and lessen that influence which is so essentially necessary for carrying on his Majesty's Government. It would be as unadvisable for his Majesty to trust me with it, as it would be unsafe and disgraceful for me to undertake it, under such humiliating circumstances.

"I cannot reconcile it with my attachment to his Majesty's person and my zeal for his service to remain quite silent on this occasion. I apprehend that the consequences of the new rules may, prove dangerous to the King's government, beyond what can be conceived by those who have not considered the particular Constitution of this country, the nature of its government, and the difficulties which a Lord Lieutenant has to encounter. Yet his Majesty may be assured of my readiness to pay all due obedience to his commands, and that his service shall in no ways

suffer by any difficulties arising from me during my short continuance in this country.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“*April 6th, 1776.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,—My official letters to Lord Weymouth will inform your Lordship that on Thursday last I put an end to the session by proroguing the parliament to the 7th day of May; and, in obedience to his Majesty’s commands, it was dissolved yesterday by proclamation.

“If I were to consult my own personal ease alone, it would be my earnest wish to obtain my recall as soon as I had arranged the little matters still depending; leaving the contention for the Chair, and the still greater contention about the originated money bill, to distress my successor. But my attachment to his Majesty is so sincere, and my affection for your Lordship so great, that I cannot entertain a thought of any personal convenience to myself, whilst I am under any apprehension that it may be obtained with any prejudice to his Majesty’s government. It is, therefore, my intention, in the course of a very few days, to transmit to Lord Weymouth, for his Majesty’s consideration, the mode of proceeding which I conceive it will be advisable should be held with

respect to the money bill which is to be brought into the House of Commons, and which I conceive it must be your Lordship's wish, as essential to the King's government, may be discussed immediately upon the return of the writs. If his Majesty shall be of opinion that the knowledge which I may be supposed to have of the nature and disposition of the people of this country, the experience I have had in this government, and the personal friends I have in this Kingdom, may enable me better than a stranger to deal with the confusion and mischief which this contest, if not closely attended to, may create; I beg leave, through your Lordship, most humbly and cheerfully, to offer them upon this occasion; and to desire you will assure his Majesty that I shall exert them with my wonted and unfeigned endeavours for his service. But I earnestly hope that, by the time this business shall be disposed of, his Majesty will have fixed on a proper person for my successor, that I may be permitted to return to his Royal presence.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“*April 11th, 1776.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have the pleasure to tell you that, by accounts received this day from Cork,

we are informed the fleet with the six regiments sailed from thence, with a leading gale at north, in the morning of the 8th instant. The troops were in high spirits, I am sure it is not our faults if they are not quite complete.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“April 21st, 1776.”

“MY DEAR LORD,—I begin to be a little solicitous to know who is likely to succeed me; not so much from a motive of mere curiosity as from a concern for the welfare of the King’s government.

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“It does not seem expedient now that I should make use of the powers his Majesty has been so graciously pleased to place in my hands for enabling me to treat with the Duke of Leinster; who is of less consequence at present than he was at the outset of the last sessions. As I was able to get through the session notwithstanding his opposition, it may be more for the advantage of his Majesty’s affairs to leave any further arrangements to my successor. This will apply both to the Duke of Leinster, and to Mr. Ponsonby. With the latter I declined having any concern, not only

because I found that I could carry on the King's service without him, but because I apprehended his terms would be very high, from the number of his followers and dependents, who in general are very necessitous. I was, besides, a little apprehensive that Mr. Ponsonby's taking a part with government might be the means of uniting and cementing his parliamentary interest with his son in law, Lord Shannon; which might, hereafter, make them both very formidable to government.

"I hope his Majesty knows me too well to suppose I can have the least anxiety about what is to become of me when I leave this government. If his Majesty shall be graciously pleased to think I have done the duties of my station, I have no reason to doubt of his goodness to me, or to suppose that my services will go unrewarded. At all events I do not mean to be importunate, or to give his Majesty one moment's uneasiness on my account; for though I should be happy to serve him in some honourable station near his person, yet, if I should never have that good fortune, my attachment to his Majesty will ever be uniformly and invariably the same.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL.

“May 4th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have delayed to the very last moment sending this despatch to your Lordship, having been in hopes from day to day of receiving the list of gentlemen, whom, I understood from Sir John Blaquiere and Mr. Lees, your Lordship wished should be recommended for creations and steps in the Irish peerage. The parliament being now dissolved, and the writs for calling the new parliament issued since Wednesday last, it is absolutely necessary that I submit to his Majesty, through their respective official channels, all those arrangements of which, as your Lordship was so good to inform me in your letter of the 22nd January, his Majesty had been graciously pleased to approve.

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“I have reason to believe that not few of the bounties and emoluments intended are meant to be mortgaged to enable some gentlemen to purchase their seats, which, to my utter astonishment, continue, at this day, to be sold for not less than £2,000. It is, however, with some satisfaction that I am able to inform your Lordship, that I

find I shall be able, in all moral probability, to secure to his Majesty's government a majority in the next parliament exceeding by two or three voices, at least, the majority stated in the paper made up by Mr. Lees; with no inconsiderable saving of expense, besides, to his Majesty. And when I am, at the same time, to inform you that since the 15th December last there have been pensions fallen in to the amount of upwards of £2,000, I shall have offered a much more agreeable prospect to your Lordship, with regard to this particular state of government, than I ever thought would have been in my power.

"The saving made amounts to £1,300, but, in order to bring this to bear, I have been forced to dispose of most of the little employments which have fallen in, and which were at my disposal. These I had intended, principally, for some few gentlemen of my household. I shall, therefore, be laid under a necessity of adding some names to the pension list which I had before submitted. But, as the amount of these will, with the addition of some small sums for charitable purposes, not exceed £352, I hope you will permit me to request your Lordship to give them your best offices with his Majesty.

"It will save much trouble to your Lordship if you will allow me to refer you to the letter before recited of the 15th December last, for the

general grounds upon which these several recommendations were made.

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“I have only to add my most earnest and pressing desire that your Lordship may obtain the carrying out of my recommendations without any delay, as the fate of the strength of the King’s government in the ensuing parliament most materially depends upon it.

* * * * *

“In a letter, private as it is, to the first Lord of the Treasury, upon a subject of this nature, which, without revenue, could not exist, it is impossible to avoid just touching, generally, upon that head. A former letter of mine acquainted you that the King’s revenue in this country had risen so considerably that, in the year ending the 25th March last, compared with the year which preceded it, there was an exceeding of no less than £103,530. Curiosity led me to examine into the state of the revenue brought down to the 30th of April from that day, and it is, in truth, with singular pleasure that I am to acquaint your Lordship that in this short period of five weeks, compared with the corresponding period of last year, there is an exceeding even beyond the last year’s, and upon which I spoke with so much exultation, of no less than £8,420, and compared with the same period ending the 30th April, 1774,

it gives an exceeding of £15,470, which, I think, cannot fail of giving your Lordship much satisfaction.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"SEPARATE AND SECRET.

"May 4th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—My official letters of this date to Lord Weymouth recommend the several steps and creations of honour, which, in your favour to me of the 25th March, by Mr. Lees, you informed me his Majesty had been graciously pleased to approve of. I shall, therefore, only trouble you with a list of the names.

Viscount Ligonier . . .	}	For the Rank of Earl.
Viscount Crosbie . . .		
Barons Southwell . . .	}	For the Rank of Viscount.
Mountflorencia . . .		
Clermont . . .		
Dawson . . .		
Sir Charles Bingham, Bart. . .	}	For the Rank of Baron.
Sir Archibald Acheson, Bart. . .		
Sir Thomas Maude, Bart. . .		
Sir William Mayne, Bart. . .		
Mr. Sentleger . . .		
Mr. Agar . . .		
Mr. Massey . . .		
Mr. Howard . . .		

Sir Michael Cromie	} For the Rank of Baronet.
Ralph Fetherston, Esq ^r	

“What I have to add to these will, I hope, not give your Lordship much trouble, nor, I hope, be disapproved of by his Majesty. Some little changes in a period of several months, may naturally have been expected to arise; and the postponing the creation of the Marquises, with which I had ventured so securely to flatter myself, and upon which I had a dependence of three certain seats in parliament, besides some collateral assistance for other seats, make it indeed necessary for me to recommend, with earnestness, the following few additional favours.

“I beg leave to propose a peerage for M^r. Burke. He is of an ancient and respectable family; has a very large estate. The borough of Naas belongs to him, with which he means to assist government. He has been fifty years in parliament; a constant supporter of the King’s government, and, in my time, so very zealously and assiduously that he has frequently been brought down to vote at 12 o’clock at night without ever making any plea whatever as an excuse when he was sent for. His eldest son is a man of understanding and ability; a very good speaker in parliament, and constantly disposed to step forward when called upon, which, upon critical occasions, has been of great assist-

ance. Grounded upon the merit of these services and this attachment to his Majesty's government, and upon an expectation of this assistance in the new parliament, I have, in a separate official letter to Lord Weymouth, recommended him to his Majesty for the rank of a Baron, by the title of Baron Naas of the County of Kildare.

"I must also beg leave to add, for steps in the peerage, the two following noblemen, Viscount Clanwilliam, and Baron Knapton. The former is a nobleman of great property, and has supported, with a constant attendance in parliament, my administration. Lord Knapton was formerly in the army. He is a man of a very respectable character, and has particularly distinguished himself at the head of those gentlemen who have been so active in the suppression of the disturbances occasioned by the White Boys.

"A separate official letter also recommends two additional Baronets.

"Mr. Lawless, purchaser, at the price of £2,000, of a seat in parliament; pledged by himself and friends to support the King's government for no other consideration than this dignity. He is of a Roman Catholic family, and, unquestionably, one of those of the greatest property in this Kingdom. He lately conformed, and with him a great number of his adherents.

"Mr. Skeffington Smith is a gentleman of pro-

perty and of character, allied and connected with some of the most respectable families of this Kingdom. My Lord Clanwilliam and Lord Bangor have warmly interested themselves in his favour. My official letter recommends these two gentlemen for the rank of Baronets.

"I do not know how it has happened, but I fear that, by some inattention of my own, I have never once spoken to your Lordship about the council board ; or, if I have, it has totally escaped my memory, for I can find no vestige or record of it amongst any of my papers. But you are, I am sure, too well acquainted with the state of things in this country to suppose it can have been possible for me to conduct the King's business through this arduous session, without holding out some expectation to some gentlemen of seats at the board. In truth, it has gone something further, amounting nearly to a promise with some whose assistance I found it absolutely necessary to secure, before they had given their votes upon the great American question, which I introduced into the House upon the first day of the session. These gentlemen are Sir Robert Deane, Sir Capel Molineux, Mr. Richard Jackson, and the Earl of Mornington.

"My letter also recommends the Archbishop of Tuam in right of his station, which, by usage, has been given to all his predecessors, and the

Lord Viscount Valentia, who has been so fortunately recommended to your Lordship.

“Added to these, I have earnestly to recommend to your Lordship’s good offices for this mark of his Majesty’s favour, two gentlemen whom it would give me the greatest pleasure to oblige, and to whom, in honour and justice, I am very much beholden: Mr. Cooper for the most disinterested and honourable support; and Mr. Vessey for services no less honourable and accommodating. Feeling myself bound, as I do, to those gentlemen, your Lordship will not be surprised if I have so much solicitude about them. Mr. Cooper is Member for the County of Sligo, which he will probably represent for the rest of his life, and he is one of the most popular as well as most respectable, and, from property, independent, men in the Kingdom. Without holding any office, or ever asking a favour for himself or a friend, he has been a constant attender in parliament, and never gave a vote upon any important point against my administration; and, what may surprise your Lordship more, preserves his popularity still.

“Mr. Vessey has been long in parliament. He is a gentleman very much esteemed, very nearly related to the Speaker, and has given a support to my administration which well entitled him to the expectation I have taken upon me to hold out to him, as far as my earnest recom-

mendation of him to his Majesty could warrant.

"Suffer me in one breath to superadd to all the trouble I have been under the necessity of giving your Lordship, as my most earnest request, that these additional favours, although they were not stated at an earlier moment, may, upon the grounds on which they are proposed, have your warmest and best offices with his Majesty, to whose gracious consideration I beg leave most humbly to submit them.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"PRIVATE.

"May 4th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—It was not my design to have troubled you upon this occasion with any thing respecting Mr. Lees. A man whose services to government, whose attachment to me, and whose unwearied labours in the very arduous and confidential station he has held, must have marked him to your Lordship as a person who had the justest and highest claims upon me for every service it might be in my power to render him.

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"It is essential for me to state a circumstance,

for your Lordship's information, which is of much consequence to him, as his bread, in a manner, may in some degree depend upon it. Mr. Lees' situation has been such, his conduct so upright, and his integrity has been so constantly exercised at the expense of his interest, that I fear he may have much to apprehend from the malignancy of some men when I am no longer on the spot to protect him. I shall confess to your Lordship that unless I am enabled, through your good offices with his Majesty, to place him in some degree out of their resentment, and to obtain for him at least something which, in case of accident, he can call his own, I shall be very uneasy.

"The circumstances of his affairs are, I believe, not unknown to your Lordship. Mr. Robinson has a memorandum of them in case you would choose to look to them. He holds an office during pleasure which Lord Townshend gave him, very inadequate to what his Lordship thought he deserved, and which he will be proud to declare he too well earned. Lord Townshend wished to have done more for him. He had it not in his power. My desire would be that his Majesty would be pleased to appoint him searcher of the Port of Wexford for life. There is no salary to the office. The emoluments not more than five pounds a year. I must beg your kind offices with his Majesty to grant him a salary to it of £500,

not to be annexed in perpetuity to the office, but for his life only.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“May 8th, 1776.”

“MY DEAR LORD,—I know very little of what is doing on the other side of the water, and, therefore, if I am improper you must excuse me. If the question is whether this country is to be governed by a resident or a non-resident Lord Lieutenant, I hope those who have his Majesty’s interest at heart will never advise the Crown to dispense with the residence of the Lord Lieutenant, and place the government of this Kingdom in the hands of Lords Justices.

“Such a measure, my dear Lord, would be most fatal to the King’s affairs, and be the occasion of great confusion. I shudder at the very idea. It is but an unthankful office to give an opinion unasked; and yet I cannot reconcile it with my duty to his Majesty to conceal my thoughts on this subject. To be silent would be little less than treachery in me, who may be supposed to know the state of this Kingdom, and what may be most prejudicial or beneficial to the Crown. I will venture to foretell that this country can never more be governed by Lords Justices. There

is not one of the leading interests here that would not take offence at being left out of government. I have reason to suspect there are some that may think they have a right to be in the Commission. What jealousies, what cabals, what factions, would ensue. But I have shot my bolt, and have said enough to convince your Lordship, if not of the prudence, at least of the zeal of

“My dear Lord, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“*May 9th, 1776.*”

“MY DEAR LORD,—The receipt of the letter from my Lord Weymouth, of which I enclose you a copy, obliges me to give your Lordship this trouble.

* * * * *

“Suffer me to trouble you also with a copy of my letter to Lord Weymouth for your entire information upon the present state of this affair ; and suffer me earnestly to request, by your kind interposition in it, that his Majesty may be fully apprized of all that has passed in a transaction which I conceive to be accomplished, and which, I had flattered myself, through your fair and friendly representations, had met with his Majesty’s approbation. In your good offices at this moment, lest there should be any misrepresenta-

tions, I request there may be no delay. If you choose an augmentation of the cavalry it can readily be done, but I am satisfied your Lordship will be of opinion that, consistently with the message and the declaratory bill respecting the 4,000 men, it cannot be made at the expense of this Kingdom.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

“SECRET.

“*May 9th, 1776.*

“MY LORD,—I must beg your leave to acknowledge, in a private letter, the honour of your official despatch to me of the 2nd of this month ; desiring me to acquaint you, for his Majesty’s information, with the steps that had been taken for the carrying into execution the augmentation of the four regiments of horse and seven regiments of dragoons upon this establishment.

“It is very painful for me to be forced to call to your Lordship’s recollection the transactions of that particular time ; and the point which, in duty to his Majesty, as well as to myself, I thought myself bound to take. The 4,000 men were granted for the American service upon one express stipulation, that this country should be eased of the

expense; and, until that was recognized in some degree by a law, I found the House of Commons not disposed to part with them. When your Lordship's several letters of the 1st of January came, directing the embarkation of the eight regiments, the augmentation now mentioned, and the embodying the invalids, I was reduced to the dilemma which my private letter to your Lordship, of the 8th of January, expressed.

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"The expense to be induced by the augmentation of the cavalry, and the incorporating the invalids (contrary to what I was authorised to declare to parliament), made a material part of my representations against the general measure. So little did I conceive that any augmentation to the cavalry was definitely intended, having never heard a syllable upon the subject since that time, that I shall confess to your Lordship I have never since entertained a thought upon the matter.

"Your Lordship will see if I am justified; and how very differently this matter stands from that which respects the incorporating the invalids of Kilmainham. I have my Lord North's letter before me of the 21st December, saying in these express terms, that his Majesty approved entirely of the plan I had proposed for incorporating the invalids; but, says his Lordship, 'I could wish

that, as the additional expense will not be great to Ireland, we may not be put to the difficulty of applying for it to the British House of Commons.' He further adds, that the precedent of taking any of the pensioners belonging to Kilmainham hospital into British pay would give so much alarm and disgust, that he hoped it would not be pressed. My answers to his Lordship conveyed, as they always will whilst I have the honour of being employed in his Majesty's service, my design of doing every thing in my power which he could desire.

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"All that followed upon the alteration of the money bill has already given your Lordship too much trouble. I mention it only to say that, until the declaratory bill had passed, I durst not, on account of the expense, even glance at the idea. But, no sooner was this carried, than I gave Sir John Blaquiere directions to take the earliest moment to state this measure to the House. He did it within less than two or three days afterwards, and apprized them of the expense it would induce. He had, in some degree, prepared them for this at the beginning of the session; having, even at that early time, conceived it to be possible that his Majesty might have occasion to employ these Pensioners. The proposition passed without opposition. In all this time not a word

was said, nor indeed thought by me, of an augmentation in the cavalry. I looked upon the several letters of the 1st of January as lost or sunk in the general change of measures respecting the 4,000 men; which, upon my humble representations to his Majesty, he had been pleased to permit. I hope that, upon combining, as is necessary, the whole of these circumstances together, I shall not be so unfortunate as to have my conduct disapproved of by his Majesty.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

“*May 27th, 1776.*”

“MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship’s secret and confidential letter of the 20th instant, signifying to me that it is his Majesty’s pleasure that I do give immediate orders for augmenting, by recruits, the four regiments of horse and seven regiments of dragoons now in this Kingdom, with one corporal and ten private dismounted men to each troop of horse and dragoons, according to your Lordship’s letter of the 1st of January last.

“Having, in my secret letter to your Lordship of the 9th instant, stated, very particularly, the reasons that had restrained me from carrying that

measure into execution, it only remains for me to desire your Lordship to inform his Majesty that his Majesty's commands shall now be forthwith obeyed.

“ I am, &c.”

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

" May 29th, 1776.

" Received June 25th.

" MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency will have learnt from Mr. Allan that his Majesty has consented to all your arrangements, except to the three Marquisates, against which he seems to have greater objections than ever ; and indeed it would involve him in considerable difficulties, and cause no small dissatisfaction, if he were to give way to your Excellency's wishes in that respect.

" The official letters for the Irish pensions, both parliamentary, and those your Excellency asks for your private friends and your household, are making out, and will be brought to your Excellency by the same conveyance with this letter. I will not conceal from you that the King was struck at the largeness of the sum total ; but, knowing the difficulties your Excellency must encounter at the election of a new parliament, and being entirely sensible of the engagements which you must contract, he gave his consent to all the list, without exception. After mentioning the greatness of the sum, it will seem in-

consistent that I shall add to it, but I hope your Excellency will have no objection to a small pension that I have procured from his Majesty for a very old woman, M^{rs}. Lucia Southwell. She is of a noble Irish family, and is, I believe, reduced almost to nothing. His Majesty has, out of charity, been pleased to order her a pension on the Irish establishment of £150 a year. Permit me here to detain your Excellency a moment for a job for a friend of mine. Captain Hamilton writes word to his father that it would not be difficult for him to obtain a small revenue office, with an additional salary of about £200 a year, if I would apply to your Excellency for it. On the one hand I should be sorry if the young man were to lose any advantage for want of an application from me ; and, on the other, I am resolved strictly to abide by the resolution I took when your Excellency went to Ireland, and which I hope I have hitherto observed, not to distress you by any requests for my friends. Your Excellency will judge whether M^r. Hamilton can be gratified without any inconvenience. If he can, I shall certainly esteem any favour done to him as a personal obligation to myself.

“We have not had the least difficulty or doubt about the Peerages sent from Ireland ; but we have been a good deal embarrassed by the solicitations of English and Scotch gentlemen on this

side of the water, who solicit for seats in the House of Lords in Ireland, which the greatest part of them will never see. Another distress arises from the desire of rank. Lord Clermont understands that he was promised to be made an Earl as soon as Lord Crosbie, and has obtained the King's consent to grant him that rank at this promotion. By this complaisance a good rule is broken, and I am put under great difficulties about Lord Orwell and Lord Baltinglass. With respect to the latter I know your Excellency's objections, and I have no other concern about him or his family than what arises from the relation which Mr. Stratford bears to me by his marriage, and from the expense and trouble he was put to in a contest at the general election, upon the interest of government. On these accounts I should not chuse to see the rule broken for Lord Clermont, and not for him. But what would please me best would be that it should be broken for neither.

"I will state my difficulties to the King at his levee to-day. If his Majesty continues in his resolution of advancing Lord Clermont to an Earldom, the enclosed list will state the intended honours correctly, otherwise the three last of the four Earls will be only Viscounts. I will endeavour likewise to put off the three last Baronies to a future time. The others have been abso-

lutely promised and cannot be deferred. We think it will be more convenient to your Excellency that the creations should *now* go over directly from hence, without waiting for any letters of recommendation from your side of the water.

“I am very sorry to see your Excellency distressed again by military arrangements, especially as I thought the augmentation of the cavalry had taken place some time ago. I believe that the passage in a former letter of mine, to which your Excellency alludes, related to some very different purpose, as it was of a date long prior to the resolution of augmenting the cavalry. The reason of adopting this measure was that we conceived the force left in Ireland to be very weak, and we did not understand the promise to the Irish parliament to mean more than that we would, at the expense of England, maintain the 4,000 men while they were out of the Kingdom of Ireland. I should conceive that this small augmentation, which, from the nature of it, will be easily made, will be rather deemed a benefit than a burthen to the nation.

“I am much obliged to your Excellency for your letter concerning the residence of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and have the satisfaction of informing you that his Majesty’s sentiments agree so entirely with yours on that head, that no

person will be appointed but upon condition of constant residence. Your successor is not yet appointed, but he will be in two or three days at the furthest. It is impossible for me to touch upon this subject without returning your Excellency my best thanks for all your personal attentions to me, as well as for the real and essential assistance you have given to his Majesty's government during your administration. If (which I do not in the least apprehend) there should be any difficulty in acknowledging your Excellency's services in a proper manner, your Excellency will be so good as to consider me to be as much bound to support your honour and credit as my own.

"Sir John Blaquiere is not mentioned in any of your Excellency's last letters, but he will not be forgotten by me, and you will not quit Ireland without the satisfaction of knowing that attention has been paid to his very able, meritorious, and successful labours.

"I am desired to speak a word to your Excellency in behalf of Mr. Robert Barry, as of a case of compassion. He has not been able to persuade Lord Cork to bring him into the next parliament, and he says that he cannot purchase a seat for a less sum than £3,000. He fears that he is to lose his place if he fails of being able to obtain a seat in parliament, which, he says, it is not in

his power to afford. Your Excellency can best judge whether you can attend to his request consistently with your general arrangements. If you can, your own good nature will, I am sure, incline you either to assist him in obtaining a seat on easier terms, or, if you are convinced of the sincerity of his endeavours, you will spare him for some time, and afford him an opportunity of trying to make his way into the House of Commons. The gentleman's friends here, his own melancholy statement of his case, and the character he bears of having been hitherto a uniform supporter of government, have induced me to write these few lines in his favour to your Excellency, who will be best able to determine how far his request can be granted without any very material prejudice to his Majesty's service.

"The King did not hesitate a moment about Mr. Lees, with whose long and useful services he is well acquainted. Your Excellency may perhaps have more difficulty to prevent your friends in Ireland from treating this grant as a deviation from the King's message, and attacking you with solicitations for permanent provisions for themselves.

"I am, &c."

LIST REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE LETTER.

"Earls.

Lord Lisburne—Earl of Lisburne in the county of Antrim.

Lord Orwell—Earl of Shipbrook.

Lord Baltinglass—Earl of Aldborough, Viscount Amiens.

Lord Clermont—Earl of Clermont.

"N.B. If the three last should not be Earls, I apprehend they would chuse the titles of Viscounts Orwell, Baltinglass, and Clermont.

"Barons.

William Edwards, Esq^r.—Heir to the ancient family of Rich, who were Earls of Warwick and Holland; a Gentleman of a very good family, considerable fortune, and without children. His title, Baron Kensington.

William Henry Lyttelton, Esq^r.—Uncle to Lord Lyttelton, for some time Governor of South Carolina and Jamaica, and Envoy extraordinary at the Court of Portugal. Of an ancient family and good fortune. Connected with Ireland by marriage, and, I believe, by the expectation of a considerable addition to his fortune. His title, Baron Westede of Balamare, in the county of Longford.

Sir George Macartney—Lord Macartney, Baron of Lissanour in the county of Antrim.

Sir Richard Philipps—Baron Milford. His family and fortune are well known.

Robert Henry Ongley, Esq^r.—Lord Ongley, Baron of Old Warden. Mr. Ongley is of a considerable fortune and family, and of a very fair character. Has given to government during the late troublesome times, the most constant, cordial, and disinterested support.

Vice-Admiral Molyneux Shuldham—A gentleman of Ireland who has passed his life in the naval service, and has been lately, without any complaint against him, superseded in his command by Lord Howe. His Majesty, to demonstrate that this necessary arrangement did not proceed from any fault of the Vice-Admiral, has directed that he should be created a peer of Ireland, by the title of Lord Shuldham.

Sir Alexander Macdonald	} —These three gentle-
Sir Thomas Wynne	
Clotworthy Upton, Esq ^r .	

men are every way properly qualified for the rank of peers, by their family, fortune, and weight, in Great Britain or Ireland. The latter was sent over by Lord Townshend.

“*N.B.* If these three are added to this creation, their titles will be, Lord Macdonald of Slate, county of Antrim, Lord Newborough, and Lord Templetown of Templetown, county of Antrim.

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“June 1st, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Having reason to believe that your Lordship may be under some difficulty with regard to Lord Clermont’s and Lord Baltin-glass’ promotions in the Peerage, I would submit it to your Lordship’s consideration whether it might not be advisable to create them Viscounts only, when the new creations and other promotions take place. Afterwards, if his Majesty should be disposed to confer any further honours on them, they might be raised, at the distance of five or six months, to the rank of Earls. This would be attended with more advantages than one. It would not only prevent the applications of other Barons to be made Earls in the first instance; but it might be the means of securing the two Mr. Stratfort’s votes for Mr. Pery; which, otherwise, he stands little chance of having; they being the most slippery gentlemen I ever had to deal with.

“If I am a little premature in offering your Lordship my sincerest acknowledgments for your very effectual and friendly offices in obtaining his Majesty’s consent to most of the favours which

I most humbly requested, your Lordship must impute it to my earnest desire to express how very sensible I am of your goodness.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“June 19th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—It is with infinite pleasure I inform your Lordship that we have this instant disposed of your money bill in the House of Commons; which, by dint of management, we procured to be read before it was rejected; precisely according to the wishes of his Majesty’s servants in England, as they were signified to me in my Lord Weymouth’s secret letter of the 1st of last month. The House was more temperate than might possibly have been expected, after the convulsions of yesterday, upon the contest for the Chair. I cannot conceive any thing to have been more mortifying to some gentlemen, or more honourable or advantageous to the King’s government, than the decisive victory that was obtained upon that question, against the three great leading and powerful interests of the Kingdom united, the Shannons, Ponsonbys, and Elys. Nor can I reconcile it to the opinion I had entertained of the wisdom of some of these gentlemen, that they should suffer it to appear to the world that an

administration conducted with some discretion may do without any of them.

"I shall go to-morrow to the House of Peers to give the Royal assent to the bill for extending the time to qualify; as I judged it expedient to pass some bill, in order to put it out of all doubt that this was a session of parliament. I shall then prorogue it in the usual form.

"And now, my dear Lord, now that I cannot conceive a wish or a desire of his Majesty's, or your Lordship's, or of your Administration, with respect to the affairs of this Kingdom, that remains unaccomplished; suffer me, in the effusions of honest joy, to offer you in a single breath my warm and sincerest congratulations upon the extraordinary success of fortunate events which, I shall confess, have gone so far beyond my most sanguine expectations.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"June 21st, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The business of our short though very interesting session of parliament being over, and, I trust, to his Majesty's satisfaction, I must now beg leave to renew my request that his Majesty would be pleased to permit me to return to his Royal presence; for I protest I no

longer find myself able to sustain the weight of the high station wherein his Majesty has been graciously pleased to place me.

“I own, my dear Lord, I most earnestly wished to have been in England about this time. Had it suited his Majesty’s convenience I desired, after paying my humble duty to the King, and having seen my family, to have had the benefit of the Spa season; to recruit a constitution, which, though not impaired, is far from being invigorated by a residence of more than three years and a half in this country.

“When it was thought that it might be for his Majesty’s service for me to continue here till the new parliament was returned, and the important business of the short session accomplished, I thought it my duty to waive all considerations of personal and domestic convenience, and give my whole attention to the great objects of his Majesty’s government. And as I have had the good fortune to see every thing succeed even beyond my expectation (for I own I was doubtful of the event), I now rely on his Majesty’s great goodness that my continuance in this country may not be protracted beyond Michaelmas next. If I might hope for your Lordship’s good offices to obtain my request, it will be considered as an additional favour conferred on,

“My dear Lord, &c.”

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“June 21st, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I think it necessary to accompany with these few lines a letter which your Excellency will perceive, from its date, to have been written some time ago. All your requests have been laid before the King, and you will see that, according to your desire, Lord Clermont will obtain only one step in the peerage at this creation ; but this point has not been carried without much difficulty and complaint. I am very sorry that Lord Baltinglass has given your Excellency so much reason to be dissatisfied with his conduct. He does not, as you will perceive, obtain his Earldom ; but as the letter has been sent to the Secretary of State’s office for inserting him in the list of Viscounts, it is, I fear, too late to recall that favour. I have, however, sent to Mr. Stratford, and will represent to him how much his father’s conduct disqualifies him from pretending to future distinctions. In addition to the pension I mentioned in my letters, you will receive a King’s letter for continuing a pension, lately vacant by the death of a Mr. Fitzgerald,

to his brother who is in great distress, and, as far as I can learn, a very proper object of his Majesty's bounty. He is very earnestly recommended by Mr. Middleton of Chick Castle, and is so old that it is likely he will not long continue a burthen to the Irish Establishment.

"I have mentioned Sir John Blaquiere's pension to the King, but he thinks that as Sir John has an office which Sir George Macartney had not, his pension should not be so great as Sir George's. The next time that I see the King I will receive his pleasure as to the amount of the pension. The mode of it was rather unexpected both to his Majesty and to your humble servant. There are objections to it, but I will reconsider it, and Sir John may be assured that I will not raise any unreasonable difficulty.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"June 29th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I wish you joy a thousand times of the prosperous opening of your parliament. It is a glorious conclusion of your successful labours. These are not only my sentiments. His Majesty expressed himself as much pleased and satisfied as your Excellency or your humble servant when I laid your letters before him. With

respect to the request contained in your last, although he is sensible how difficult it will be to replace you, he has authorised me to acquaint you that he will nominate your successor time enough to enable your Excellency to quit Ireland, according to your desire, before Michaelmas next.

“I am, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“July 18th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,— I must inform your Lordship that I have recommended to the Lords of the Treasury, and, for the furtherance of which with his Majesty, I must beg leave to request your good offices, the three following small pensions : one of £100 to M^{rs}. Marshall ; one of £100 to M^{rs}. Evelyn ; and one of £250 to M^{rs}. Mitchell.

“M^{rs}. Marshall is the wife of the Collector of Galway. This gentleman has served the Crown, in that station, upwards of thirty years. The office is worth £250 a year, which he proposes to resign for a pension of £100 to his wife ; and to which, if his Majesty shall be pleased to consent, I mean to appoint in his room M^r. Wynne, son of the Right Honourable Owen Wynne, member for the County of Sligo. There is no man to whom government is more obliged than this gentleman. He has, at this moment, a double return for two seats ; and I am thoroughly satisfied if a compliment of this little office were made to him, he would, and he has it much in his power to, make ample compensation to government for it.

"Mrs. Evelyn is the widow of the late Dean of Emly who died the other day, and for whom I had a very particular regard. The Dean was one of the most respectable men of his vocation. He expended his income in the education of his children, and, as I am informed, in purchasing for his son now serving under General Clinton in America. Insomuch that his widow and the rest of his family are left totally destitute, and I have, therefore, upon this occasion, taken the liberty to submit her name to his Majesty as an object highly deserving of the Royal bounty, and recommend her for a pension of £100 a year. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*August, 1776.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—If I express a great deal of uneasiness that nothing is yet determined in favour of Sir John Blaquiere's situation, your Lordship will not be surprised when you consider how much the success of my administration has been owing to the persevering attention and abilities of my Secretary.

* * * * *

"The flourishing state of the public credit; the great improvement of the revenue; and the discharge of many arrears that were become dis-

graceful to government, are, in a great measure, owing to Sir John Blaquiere. After saying so much in behalf of my friend, I shall endeavour to make your Lordship some amends, by assuring you that no consideration shall ever induce me to give you half so much trouble on account of,

“My dear Lord, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“August 7th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship’s kind attention to every request of mine induces me to lay before you an application which I have been earnestly solicited to make. Our Solicitor-General, whom I wish, upon this occasion, to distinguish by the title of my friend, Mr. Scott, I have found to be uniformly and invariably a man of integrity, fidelity, and zeal; and I can, with confidence, assert that the King has not one more attached nor any abler servant in Ireland.

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“Though Lord Townshend brought him into parliament, he has determined not to remain, in that respect, a burthen to administration, and has purchased a seat for life. He wishes exceedingly to have the reversion of Clerk of the Pleas in the Court of Exchequer in Ireland, for his life. The

office is at present granted to two Attorneys, Francis and Polidore Plumbtree, joint patentees, who purchased it, in reversion, for their lives, and have been in possession of it since the year 1759.

“This office, ever since the year 1668, which is as early as it is traced in the Rolls, has been uniformly granted in reversion, and, generally, for two lives in reversion; in most instances to persons below the title of Esquire. It is not, nor ever was, upon the establishment, and creates no expense, as its emoluments, which are considerable, amounting from £1,000 to £1,500 a year, arise entirely from fees upon the law business of the Courts. The expense of the office I cannot ascertain. There are two deputies and some clerks. The whole, I am assured, cannot be less than £500 a year. I should not ask it for his life, but that a reversion, during pleasure, upon the deaths of two, would really be worth to him nothing.

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“Having stated to your Lordship the nature of my request on behalf of this gentleman, suffer me, my dear Lord, to add a word as to the reasonableness of his pretensions. He has been, for eight years, without the exception of a single moment, a most strenuous, indefatigable supporter of his Majesty's government, and now enters upon a like campaign entirely at his own expense.

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"We absolutely owe the preservation of the King's inheritance in the Phoenix Park to his indefatigable industry, ability, and zeal; and upon every other occasion I have found his conduct uniformly directed to his Majesty's service, and to the support of his government. I would, therefore, most earnestly entreat that this gentleman's conduct may be particularly distinguished by such a well timed mark of his Majesty's gracious favour. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"August 27th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Captain Hamilton called on me last night. He was just returned from England, and I own I was much disappointed in not hearing from your Lordship, for I have not had that honour since the 29th of June last, when you assured me that his Majesty had authorised you to acquaint me that he would nominate my successor time enough to enable me to quit Ireland, according to my desire, before Michaelmas next. Relying on these assurances, I have already sent to England my plate, my wine, my clothes, and the greatest part of my baggage, which may render my situation very untoward and distressing if I am detained here beyond the time above men-

tioned ; but I still trust that will not be the case ; for, though I do not yet hear of any one named to succeed me, I hope it will not be expected I should remain here. The extension of the powers vested in the Commander in chief have lowered the credit of the Lord Lieutenant in proportion as they have increased the influence and importance of that gentleman ; the inconveniences of which will, one day or other, be so sensibly felt, that I am unwilling to be responsible for them. It is far from my intention to start doubts and difficulties ; but I wish most earnestly to get rid of a situation in which I can no longer continue with any degree of credit to myself, nor with the least prospect of being any further useful to my King and country. Under such circumstances your Lordship will allow me to have recourse to your friendly interposition, by which I flatter myself with the hope of obtaining his Majesty's leave to return to his Royal presence conformably to his gracious assurances signified by your Lordship to

“ My dear Lord, &c.”

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“PRIVATE.

“September 2nd, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I am really quite ashamed that I have not yet sent to your Excellency his Majesty’s permission to return to England, and that I am now obliged to desire you to remain there a little while, and I hope but a very little while, longer. The two persons who were first talked of as your successors are now out of the question ; and I am so hampered by my expressions to a third that I am afraid he must be the next Lord Lieutenant. I say afraid, because, though I have, personally, the highest esteem and regard for him, I have strong political objections against his nomination. I need not explain myself more fully to your Excellency. Nothing has ever given me more uneasiness than this Irish business. How it will end I cannot yet be certain ; but I still apprehend that your Excellency’s retreat will bring on mine.

“I have laid your Excellency’s request in behalf of the Solicitor-General before the King, but can-

not boast of my success. His Majesty has, very justly, conceived such a dislike to granting reversions and terms of years and for lives to the leading members of parliament in Ireland, that he will not, I believe, be brought to consent to this application. At the same time he has a just sense of Mr. Scott's abilities and services, and will, I am sure, be very happy in every opportunity of promoting him.

"Your letter concerning Allan has found me here, and brought me the first intelligence of his having procured a seat in the new parliament of Ireland. I hope that the precedent of Mr. Waller will be serviceable to him; but I must apprise your Excellency that the King begins to grow sore upon the great number of applications for pensions on the Irish Establishment.

"I shall return to town about the 15th or 16th of this month, and will immediately signify to you his Majesty's final resolution about your successor. Your Excellency will be, I hope, released about the end of October.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ September 9th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I shall take up no more of your time than to acknowledge the favour of your letter of the 2nd instant, and to thank you for the confidence with which you have been pleased to honour me. I shall not make an improper use of it, but shall wait with impatience for the latter end of October, when I hope in God I shall receive his Majesty’s permission to return to England. My continuance here has become irksome and dishonourable from a sense of being of no further use to the Crown ; and, therefore, I wish to be released from it. But for his Majesty’s sake, and for the sake of the public, I very sincerely wish that my retreat may in no degree affect your Lordship. It ought, indeed, to affect no one but myself. If the motives on which I have acted are not thoroughly understood, my conduct will be blamed, and perhaps by his Majesty. It will be my misfortune and not my fault if that should be the case.

“ I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“September 11th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—As Sir John Blaquiere will have an opportunity of paying his respects to your Lordship in person, I shall beg leave to refer you to him for any information you may require with respect to the affairs of this country. I shall not presume to trouble your Lordship with any more requests on his behalf; for, if what I have already so frequently urged is not sufficient to remove any unfavourable impressions that have been made to the prejudice of a man that has done the Crown the most signal and eminent service, nothing that I can offer will be of any avail. Whatever may be his Majesty’s further pleasure with regard to Sir John’s past services, I should hope, at least, that his reception at St. James’s will not carry any mark of his Majesty’s disapprobation; which, to a man conscious of having discharged his duty with the greatest attention and integrity, would be the greatest of all mortifications.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“September 11th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Before I leave this Kingdom, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to request

the favour of your Lordship to lay before his Majesty the names of some of the respectable Magistrates of this city. They have been particularly active in defeating and crushing, at the peril of their lives and to the manifest prejudice of their properties, the many popular commotions which at different times have been endeavoured to be excited by turbulent people in this metropolis, in favour of the cause of the American rebels.

* * * * *

"I beg to submit to his Majesty the name of Mrs. Catherine Emerson, the wife of the present Lord Mayor, for a pension of £100. I think the Lord Mayor has an additional claim, as he will inevitably lose the £500 which the Commons of this city constantly grant to the Chief Magistrate upon his going out of office.

"To the daughter of Mr. Sheriff Trulock, for the like services, £50.

"To the son of Mr. Alderman Sankey, £100.

"To Teresa, the eldest daughter of the late Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman Booker, £50.

"To Catherine, the wife of Mr. David Robinson, for the like services, £50.

"And upon this occasion I shall beg of your Lordship to submit to his Majesty the enclosed list of some of the unfortunate soldiers who were inhumanly houghed in the streets of Dublin. Very particular inquiry was made into the case of every

man, by General Johnston's directions, before Sir John Irwine's arrival. I, therefore, can venture to assure your Lordship there is not an improper one submitted. The sum I would recommend is £6 a year to each, in addition to the Kilmainham allowance; which will produce about sixpence a day, clear. More I would not desire, lest it should prove a temptation, hard as it is to be believed, for men to maim themselves, in which opinion Sir John Irwine entirely concurs with me.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"September 13th, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—If the letters I lately wrote to your Lordship should appear too unguarded and precipitate, you will be so kind as to impute the warmth of the expressions to a sense of the very unmerited treatment I have met with.

"When I perceived it to be his Majesty's pleasure to invest the Commander in chief with new powers, far beyond those which any of his predecessors had ever enjoyed, could I take a more respectful part than most earnestly to solicit my recall, that I might not be reduced to the dilemma of disobeying his Majesty's commands, or of giving up those essential rights which have hitherto been constantly exercised by every Lord Lieutenant?

Rights which I enjoyed, till it was thought proper to deprive me of them, as no longer worthy to be entrusted with them ; though I am not conscious of having made an improper use of them in any one instance. If I had obeyed the dictates of my own mind, I ought not to have submitted one moment to such humiliating and mortifying treatment, that wounded my character the more sensibly, as all the world would conclude that such an affront would not have been offered to any man whose conduct had not been extremely blameable.

“I can no longer conceal from your Lordship how much I am hurt by this affair, which will affect me to the latest moment of my life ; for, if my services were not thought worthy of any notice or reward, I might be allowed to hope that they did not deserve disgrace or humiliation.

“Your Lordship will recollect that I made it my request to return to England as soon as the new parliament should be elected, and the Speaker placed in the Chair. My long absence from my family, and an unavoidable inattention to my own private affairs, made me very desirous of being at home. My remaining here any longer can be of no use to the King, who has put it out of my power to do him any further service ; and it can answer no other purpose than to grace the triumph of the Commander in chief, whose friends are not

insensible of the advantage he has gained over the Lord Lieutenant.

“In troubling your Lordship with this detail I have no other design than to convince you of my attachment to your Lordship, and of my most grateful sense of the many favours you have conferred on me, which alone can tempt me to remain here to the end of next month. I rely on that friendship to which I am already so much indebted that my return to England will not be protracted beyond the end of October.

“Upon the whole I flatter myself that my retreat will not be attended with any inconvenience to your Lordship; for I am of too little weight in the political scale to affect your Lordship’s high station; which you have filled with so much honour and ability, that he must be a bold adventurer indeed who will presume to take the helm when you find the vessel no longer governable.

“I am, &c.”

Letter from the Solicitor-General.

FROM the Solicitor-General to the Lord
Lieutenant :—

“ September 14th, 1776.

“ MY LORD,— Your Excellency must be convinced of the perfect state of tranquillity and peace which universally subsists in this Kingdom.

“ From the frequent tours your Excellency has made to the North and South your Lordship has been able to form the most accurate judgment of the manners and dispositions of all sects and classes of the people ; and I think I may safely venture to appeal to that experience to warrant my asserting that, since the reign of Queen Elizabeth to this day, the Papists as well as the Protestants of Ireland were never better disposed to any Prince than the present, nor better conducted as subjects than at this moment.

“ I am, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“September 30th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—Having, in my letter to your Lordship of the 3rd of June last, very fully laid before you the conduct of Mr. Robert Barry with regard to the purchase of a seat in the new parliament, I shall only beg leave to refer your Lordship to that letter, and to the several papers Mr. Lees transmitted, by my orders, to Mr. Robinson. By your Lordship's letter to me of the 29th May preceding, I observe that Mr. Barry, in his application to your Lordship, stated the impossibility of procuring a seat for less than £3,000. Your Lordship is already informed that he had the offer of one for £2,000, with this further attention to him, to enable him to make the purchase, namely a tender of £900 out of my own private pocket, which was not to be repaid until it should suit his convenience. This he declined, relying, no doubt, on the influence of his friends in England to get him entirely exempted from what I had judged necessary, for the service of government, to require. I must, nevertheless, my Lord, from a sense of duty to the King, and what I owe

to myself in my present station in this Kingdom, make this request to your Lordship, namely that this gentleman's conduct, although not marked by an entire deprivation of official appointments, may be punished with the loss of a part of them : as well for the sake of example, as to strengthen the hands of government, by adding one to the number of our friends in the House of Commons. I have, therefore, in my official letter to the Lords of the Treasury, desired that the additional salary Mr. Barry now holds of £500 a year, as Seneschal of the King's Manors, may be discontinued ; and that in lieu thereof a pension of £200 a year may be granted to Mr. Barry ; which, with the salary of the other office held by him of Judge of Appeals, of £300 a year, will make up to him an income of £500 a year. This, in my opinion, ought to be considered by the friends of that gentleman as a very ample compensation for his past services in parliament ; and I am sure it will by your Lordship when I inform you that many gentlemen who had brought themselves into the former, and repurchased into the present parliament, do not hold offices of such considerable emolument under the Crown.

* * * * *

“If what I have submitted should not meet with his Majesty's approbation, and if Mr. Barry after refusing, in a manner not less ungrateful than

disrespectful to the Lord Lieutenant, to purchase into parliament, shall be permitted to hold the £800 a year granted to him solely as a member of parliament, and a supporter of the government, your Lordship will forgive me if I repeat that the government of this Kingdom must very soon be rendered impracticable, and the chief governor, whoever he may be, reduced to the situation of a state cypher, and a useless servant to his Majesty in this country.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“October 6th, 1776.”

“MY DEAR LORD,—If during your Lordship's confinement, which I hope to God wont be long, you should have leisure to cast your eye over the enclosed paper, your Lordship will have the satisfaction to see that the revenues of this Kingdom are in a thriving state. The enclosed account exceeds considerably what I gave your Lordship reason to expect ; which gives me the more pleasure, as it not only puts the government on a very respectable footing at present, but as it is likely to be the means of facilitating the measures of future administrations.

“However anxious I may be to obtain his Majesty's permission to leave this Kingdom at this

time, I cannot renew my request without some degree of reluctance, lest I should be thought to importune your Lordship at an unseasonable moment. Your Lordship has flattered me with the hopes of going to England the latter end of this month, a period to which we are advancing apace. It has not, however, yet suited his Majesty's convenience to name my successor; and I cannot help expressing my apprehensions of being detained here much longer than I had reason to expect, to my great disappointment and mortification; and to the inexpressible detriment of my private affairs, that call for all my attention at home.

"Permit me, therefore, my dear Lord, most earnestly to entreat you humbly to lay my request before his Majesty, that if it should not be deemed expedient for me to leave Ireland before the end of this month, I may, at least, hope for that indulgence in the course of next month; and that whether it may be his Majesty's pleasure that I deliver the Sword of State into the hands of a Lord Lieutenant, or of Lords Justices, I may, at all events, be allowed to return to England before the end of November.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ October 14th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have just received the enclosed paper from M^r. Clements, which I cannot deny myself the pleasure of transmitting to your Lordship, as I am persuaded it will afford you no small satisfaction to see the affairs of this Kingdom in so promising and flourishing a state. About four years ago both the Civil and Military establishments were greatly in arrear: the pensions more than a year and a half; the army clothing above two. It is very material that your Lordship should be fully apprized of these circumstances; as they cannot fail of making the Lord Lieutenancy an object far more desirable than it was when I came to it. If this pleasing prospect should induce his Majesty to name my successor, I shall be extremely happy to be eased of a burthen that becomes every day more and more grievous, as it not only begins to affect my health and spirits, but is extremely prejudicial to my private affairs, which I am almost ashamed to mention to your Lordship.

“I am, &c.”

COPY OF MR. DEPUTY VICE-TREASURER'S
LETTER TO MY LORD LIEUTENANT OF
12th OCTOBER, REFERRED TO ABOVE.

"MY LORD,—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have closed the Treasury abstract of receipts and payments to Michaelmas last. At that time there remained in the Teller's hands a balance on the loan fund amounting to £51,072 9s. 2d.; on the ordinary revenue £84,340 5s. 8d. I also think it my duty to acquaint your Excellency that, pursuant to a clause in the loan act of last sessions, I have advertised to pay off such debentures as might be brought to my office for that purpose; but as I understand they now bear a premium of one per cent., the proprietors make no application for their principal money.

"If it shall be your Excellency's pleasure, I propose forthwith to pay six months clothing for the army, to the 4th January last, and a quarter's pensions to Michaelmas last, besides the usual salaries and allowances to the same period.

"When these payments shall be made I can venture to affirm the Civil and Military Establishments of this Kingdom have not been so effectually cleared since I had the honour to be Deputy Vice-Treasurer.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

“ Greenwich, October 17th, 1776, Thursday night.

“ MY LORD,—I write in a good deal of pain, but Mr. Robinson has just been here, and I feel myself bound to let you know what passed, as your anxieties must have increased in proportion to the silence that has been held. The drift of Mr. Robinson’s business was to make me a party to keep your Excellency some time longer in Ireland; the particular object of this visit to engage me to say to your Excellency what they have not the confidence to request themselves. Ill as I am, my senses had not so far forsaken me as to have left me the dupe of such a plan. I know too well the consequence of not letting them speak for themselves; but my Lord North’s accident prevents his writing. He cannot yet use a pen, and under this consideration I waived my scruples. The difficulties of naming your successor continue as strong as ever. His Lordship wishes, in the most earnest manner, that you could be prevailed on to continue for a short

time ; but as I found that time could not be ascertained by Mr. Robinson, it amounted, I told him, to a request that you had it not in your power to grant. I touched on the Lords Justices, but I found that scheme impracticable. Every thing, says Mr. Robinson, that could be agreeable to Lord Harcourt would be attended to.

* * * * *

“Could Lord Harcourt stay six weeks, or two months, or thereabouts? said he. As to staying the winter I spoke peremptorily upon the point, that I did, on my conscience, believe nothing on earth could tempt you to do it ; that, relying on the assurances you had received, your baggage was sent off; your household afloat; and that you were, altogether, in the most unpleasant situation that could be imagined ; but still I had reason to think your regard for Lord North was so sincere that you would readily sacrifice a few weeks to his service. I knew so much of your friendship for him that I should not scruple to give it as my opinion that, provided the delay went not beyond the middle of November, his Lordship would find you not indisposed to accommodate. In the meantime, I undertook to write what had passed to your Excellency ; more particularly as they desired me to do it in order that your Excellency might not think your letters were unattended to, because they were not answered.

We parted very cordial and friendly. I have agreed to go to stay a day or two at Robinson's as soon as I am able to stir. I hope it will be in five or six days. I shall be then nearer Lord North, who, I understand, wishes to see me ; I am glad of it, for he is a very fair man ; and by that time I hope they will enable me to write something satisfactory to your Excellency upon the subject.

“ I am your Excellency's faithful

“ and devoted Servant,

“ J. BLAQUIERE.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ October 21st, 1776.

“MY LORD,—In consequence of the intelligence transmitted to me by Mr. Robinson, I have endeavoured to discover what grounds there are to apprehend any disturbance in this country, either from the Roman Catholics in the south and western parts, or from the Presbyterians in the northern parts, of this Kingdom. I believe I may fairly venture to assure your Lordship that there never was a greater appearance of quiet and tranquillity than at present.

“The Presbyterians, in general, are a sour and discontented people; but not more so than they have been for many years. That many of them bear a good will to their brethren in North America I make no doubt; but, from any thing that has hitherto appeared, there is no reason to suspect that their infatuation will carry them further than to supply the Americans, in a clandestine manner, and at a very dear rate, with such necessities as they may stand in need of. Such conduct is too frequently the case among trading people. I have, however, paid a particular atten-

tion to the Province of Ulster ever since I came to Ireland. I have rebuilt a barrack at Armagh, that was quite fallen to decay, because Armagh is a very critical part where a small force keeps a considerable tract of country in awe. I am also taking steps for quartering a regiment of light dragoons or cavalry in the North, where no troops of that sort have been regularly stationed of late years. I have also taken every other precaution in my power to keep that and every other part of the Kingdom quiet.

“I was unwilling to employ severity against the White Boys in the South, until the repeated outrages of those wretches made it absolutely necessary. No less than twenty of them were executed in the course of last Spring, for the daring and atrocious cruelties and outrages they had committed in the counties of Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow, and the Queen’s County. In the last of these counties the Protestant inhabitants of Mount-melick and Maryborough associated themselves, and formed a troop or company at each place, which was attended with the most salutary effects. They took an active part against the White Boys, several of whom were apprehended and brought to justice by the Mount-melick Volunteers, headed by one Mr. Flood, who is a very active Justice of the Peace in the Queen’s County. These Companies

were highly approved of by the leading interests in the county, such as Lord de Vesey, who has acted with great spirit and propriety in discountenancing and suppressing the outrageous proceedings of the White Boys ; as well as Mr. Dawson, Lord Carlow's eldest son, General Walsh, Lord Roden, and Deane Coote. I must add that the independent companies of Mount-melick and Maryborough were furnished with arms from the Ordnance department, at the recommendation and at the desire of the several persons before mentioned. I believe the use that has hitherto been made of these arms very sufficiently justifies the confidence that was placed in those who were entrusted with them. As for any other association, or men raised, or intended to be raised, by any particular nobleman or gentleman of property, I have had no intimation or suspicion of any such intention ; and I think it is scarce possible that any thing of that kind could happen without its coming to my knowledge.

“I have seen several of the Judges since they returned from their circuits, and I find it is their opinion that this Kingdom, in general, never enjoyed a state of greater tranquillity than it appeared to do during the course of their circuits, which was perhaps the more extraordinary as the assizes were so very near the time of the general election, which is commonly a season

of riot and disorder. I lay the greater stress on the report of the Judges, more especially on those of the Lord Chief Justice Patterson, and the Solicitor-General, Mr. Scott, because they are persons of ability, of very great integrity and spirit, and zealous in the discharge of their duty. They both assure me that they never saw the country in greater tranquillity.

“With regard to the persons whose names were transmitted hither by Mr. Robinson, your Lordship may be assured they shall be attended to; and that we may come to the knowledge of what they are about if they are concerned in any schemes tending to the prejudice of his Majesty’s government. By the inquiries that have hitherto been made most of the persons in question appear to be low and insignificant, from whom no danger is to be apprehended.

“I had a letter this day from Sir John Blaquiére relating to what passed between Mr. Robinson and him with regard to my further continuance here. Sir John was too well apprized of the very awkward and distressed situation I am in to give any room to think that it was possible for me to continue here beyond the end of November, when my four years will be completed, as I landed here on the 30th November, 1772. I am sorry to say that I think myself twenty years older than I was when I came here; having neither

spirits nor constitution capable of going through the fatigues of this very responsible station, from which I most humbly and earnestly request his Majesty to remove me that I may get rid of a burthen I can no longer bear; and that I may have a little leisure to attend to my own private affairs, that have already suffered considerably by my long absence.

“I am, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to the Right Honourable Mr. Jenkinson :—

“*October 30th, 1776.*”

“DEAR SIR,—I am sensible of the concern you express for my present situation, which is, in truth, a most irksome one. From the moment it was thought expedient to divest me of those powers that have been entrusted to all my predecessors, I have considered myself as disgraced and dishonoured, and have most earnestly solicited my recall. What opinion will the world entertain of the man that is mean enough to submit to such mortifying and humiliating treatment? If I have, hitherto, said little about it, you may be assured that I have not been the less sensible of it. By the end of next month I shall have been here four years, during which time the business of government has not been neglected. I may say

things have been conducted with some success, and that this country has been kept quiet. How long matters may continue so I will not pretend to say ; nor, circumstanced as I am, will I make myself responsible for future events. I depended on leaving Ireland about Midsummer last. I was assured the King would name a Lord Lieutenant time enough for me to return to England about Michaelmas. I have been pressed to stay to the end of October, and I now find myself as far from home as I was in January last, when I first solicited my recall. Having already offered to Lord North to remain here to the end of November, to oblige his Lordship still more I will muster up all my patience in hopes it may suit with his Majesty's convenience to allow me to come home at Christmas. I have frequently troubled Lord North with my sentiments on this subject, for I honour and respect him too much not to write to him with freedom on a subject that admits of no reserve.

“I have not yet mentioned my private affairs, that have already suffered by my long absence, and are likely to suffer still more if I remain here much longer. You have known me many years, and you know I was never apt to complain. I bore the common misfortunes of life as well as my neighbours, but my spirits now fail me, and I feel myself much more fit for the enjoyment

of my family and friends than for the very busy scenes in which I have been so long engaged, and from which I so earnestly and sincerely wish to be relieved.

“I am, &c.”

Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

“ Greenwich, Saturday, November 2nd, 1776.

“ MY LORD,—I am honoured with your Excellency's letters of the 21st and 24th October. Feeling myself much better on Thursday I went to London that day.

* * * * *

“ I had thus the opportunity of some conversation with Mr. Robinson, who is cordial, it is impossible to be more so. I did not see Lord North, but I am satisfied he will be disposed by Robinson to take your Excellency's situation again into consideration. He cannot but be sensible of your attentive conduct to him ; indeed, I believe he is attached to your Excellency most sincerely.

* * * * *

“ Since I wrote to your Excellency I have heard, in a whisper, and from no bad authority, that Lord North will not submit to the unconstitutional powers vested in the Commander in chief of Ireland, and that he has told his Majesty, or means to tell him, that he cannot recommend

to him any person for the office of Lord Lieutenant under these humiliating circumstances. I am glad that you have wrote yourself again to Lord North. It must be always much better than anything I can say, tho' your Excellency may depend upon my best exertions. I beg the favor to know the purport of what you write on this subject as often as you have occasion to do it, that I may guide my conduct precisely.

* * * * *

"Lady Blaquiere is very thankful for your Excellency's obliging remembrance. She still walks about, tho' she is as big as a little hogshead.

"I am, faithfully and respectfully,

"Your devoted Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"Greenwich, Monday, November 18th, 1776.

"MY LORD,—If I had not wrote to your Excellency very explicitly on Saturday, that it was my firm belief you would be freed from your bondage before Christmas, I should be under very considerable anxieties upon the receipt last night of the honor of your letter of the 14th, by express. Some of the great objects of your distress are,

I conceive, before this moment quite cleared away. Your Excellency will have conceived by my letter that they were working about your removal. The pensions for the Magistrates and maimed soldiers are done ; and the kind and very affectionate part you have taken in my personal concerns will no longer give you trouble. The mist, so far as respects your Excellency, is entirely clearing away. I cannot speak with more precision about *the moment* of your return than I did on Saturday. When any thing decisive turns up I have Kelly to send off at a moment's notice.

* * * * *

"The Duke of Northumberland declined the Viceroyalty, I believe, no later than Friday last. He took some little time to consider of it, and at last refused on account of his wife's indisposition ; for I fancy that, with respect to the rest, he had given them hopes. Lord North's principal endeavours have been to appoint some one who, in filling your Excellency's place, should vacate one which he might gratify you with. Knowing, I suppose, your Excellency's wish to be about the King's person, he has pressed Lord Ashburnham to accept the Irish Government, I fancy upon any terms. Your Excellency was to have the Groom of the Stole, which, I have good authority for saying, was to be made a Cabinet office on your account. But nothing could move Lord

Ashburnham. I am sorry for it. I know little of him, but never had a high opinion of his understanding, in which I see I was correct. My Lord Dartmouth was not only offered but pressed to take the government; and it is a fact, I know, I think so at least, that there was to be no arrangement in the succession. You was, you may depend upon it, my Lord, to be Privy Seal. The Duke of Ancaster, indeed, was mentioned, that he might vacate such an office as it was thought your Excellency would like; but, 'good God,' said Lord North, 'it is impossible to send into such a responsible station such a very egregious blockhead, who is, besides, both mulish and intractable.'

"The Chief Justices in Eyre have been in contemplation, but the one is found to be too small a man, the other not to be dealt with. Your Excellency will judge, from all this, whether Lord North acts an honourable part or not; and you will be satisfied, I believe, that, since his illness at least, he has not been negligent of your desires. If no Lord Lieutenant has yet been declared, I am clear it is owing to his hopes of making such an honorable arrangement for your Excellency as your eminent services entitle you to. I am satisfied he will, when he sees there is no longer a hope left, declare, perhaps, his enemy to the office, sooner than keep you beyond Christmas;

and I am as satisfied that he will scarce sleep after you are come over till a proper arrangement is made for you ; but his first object is that you should come into it at once.

* * * * *

“Lord Rochford would suit well enough as Lord Lieutenant, but he persists in the non-residence, which will never be granted. Lord Hillsborough has had his *quietus* from his Majesty. Lord Gower presses very strongly for Lord Carlisle. It is, in truth, too ridiculous ; but, after all, if I were forced to give an opinion, I think I should be inclined to say Lord Buckinghamshire will be your successor. Lord G. Germaine, I found, was one of the loudest men at St. James’ last Friday, to cry shame that you had not got your recall when you had so earnestly pressed for it. His object, together with that of the Suffolk clique, is notorious. It distresses Lord North, and, if they can prevail, they think that at the present moment their cousin of Buckingham stands foremost, with whom Lord North is certainly something committed and entangled. I believe he will be the man ; I need not add I hope not ; but I fancy less than ten days will determine. The blue ribbands will be given the instant the Duke of Rutland dies. His death is looked for every moment, and, the instant his breath quits

his body, your Excellency may depend upon it a Chapter will be held ; at least so it is now determined ; and the Earls of Rochford, Harcourt, Holderness, and Suffolk, will be invested with the order.

“I will not write any more till I have been in London. If I hear nothing further I will dispatch Lary in the evening, as I have Kelly at hand to send off at a moment when I can hear of anything decisive.

“Monday, 3 o'clock.

“I have been with Lord North for a considerable time, and am so satisfied that things are come to their crisis that I shall, this instant, dispatch Kelly, in all haste, to apprise your Excellency of them.

“Lord Buckingham, for the reasons I have mentioned, will, I think, be the man. It is my opinion Lord North will, this very day, settle it with his Majesty ; but I think you may depend upon it that the declaration of a new Lord Lieutenant will be made certainly within these three days, of which I most truly wish your Excellency joy.

“With regard to my journey to Ireland, it is of course at an end ; my health would not permit it, and I told Mr. Lees so some days ago. Once more, God be thanked, we shall shortly see

your Excellency here, I hope in health, and shall ever pray that you may long enjoy it.

“I am, with unfeigned truth,

“Your devoted and obliged Servant,

“J. BLAQUIERE.”

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ PRIVATE.

“ *November 24th, 1776.*

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I shall trouble your Lordship with a very few lines to express how happy I am with the prospect of soon leaving this Kingdom, for that is the great object of my wishes. Any public testimony of his Majesty’s approbation of my services will be flattering to a man who has ever been ambitious of deserving it. But at this instant of time, when his Majesty’s whole attention is turned towards more serious objects, it would be altogether indecent and illiberal to urge past services as a claim to favour, and it would be still more illiberal to press any arrangement merely to accommodate me, at a time when your Lordship must have so many real difficulties and embarrassments to encounter. If, therefore, his Majesty should condescend to bestow a thought on me, I would request the favour of your Lordship to assure his Majesty that I shall wait with the greatest cheerfulness and patience, till such time as it may best suit with his

convenience to employ me. It is the best return I can make to the most indulgent of Masters, and the fairest opportunity I may ever have of expressing my sense of the many favours you have conferred on,

“My dear Lord, &c.”

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

“ November 24th, 1776.

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I have a thousand pardons to ask of your Excellency for leaving you so long without a successor. I assure you it has not proceeded from any want of attention to your comfort and convenience, but from other causes too long to explain to you in a letter, but which you shall be fully informed of when I have the honor of seeing you in England. I just touched on my difficulties in a letter I wrote to you from Wroxton ; since that time I have, in vain, endeavoured to settle the Lieutenancy of Ireland entirely to my fancy. Various reasons have prevented it from going to those persons who were my first objects, and determined me to fix on Lord Buckingham, to whom I had promised my good offices if the appointment of those whom I had first in view should not take place. I enclose a note I received from him this morning, in which your Excellency will see that he wishes to stay in England till the 22nd of next January ; when your Excellency will, I hope, be relieved from

your long and painful, but meritorious and successful, labours. Whatever reason your Excellency may have to complain that they have not been everywhere duly acknowledged, I have the happiness to feel that no complaint of that kind can relate to me. I have not only to your Excellency, but in every other place constantly declared how much I think the King and the publick, England and Ireland, owe to your administration. After having fought many hard battles, subdued many and great factions, given to the common cause the most essential assistance in the present contest with America, formed a new parliament, and amazingly increased the revenue, you will leave the government of Ireland in a state of ease and opulence, which it has not known these twenty years. I hope and believe that your successor will feel and acknowledge how much he owes to you, and that you will have no reason to doubt of the good impression your services have made in that quarter, where, of all others, you would wish to see them meet with the acceptance they deserve.

“His Majesty has consented to all your Excellency's late applications; and I should willingly comply with the arrangement you recommend for Mr. Allan, were I not hampered with former engagements which, I am afraid, will be thought to stand in his way. I will, however,

consider the matter again, and shall be glad of every opportunity of shewing my respect to your Excellency as well as of serving him.

“I should be much obliged to you if you would finish the affair of the Vice-Treasurers and Clerk of the Pells before you quit the government. The King’s letter has been issued some time ago, but his Majesty’s law officers in Ireland have neither complied with it, nor made any return to it. I understand that the Attorney-General, when he was here, objected to the exemption from fees and other deductions. If that is his only objection let it be represented here, and another King’s letter shall issue, stating the resolution of the House of Commons without any alteration. We are not inclined that any other change should be made in the instrument which we have sent from hence; but what I most earnestly desire is that the Attorney-General would, without further delay, proceed in the patents, or assign to us his reasons for not proceeding. A King’s letter ought not to remain so long unnoticed.

“I have the honor to be, with the sincerest attachment, &c.

“P.S. When I tell your Excellency that his Majesty has consented to your late applications, your Excellency will not understand that I include the reversion you ask for the Solicitor-

General. His Majesty is sensible of Mr. Scott's merit, and will gladly listen to any proposal for his advancement, but he does not think that his case will justify a deviation from the rule he has laid down concerning reversions.

Letters from Lord Buckingham.

FROM Lord Buckingham to Earl Harcourt :—

“ November 29th, 1776.

“MY LORD,—As it was suggested to me that there was a particular form in which it was necessary for me to address your Excellency upon his Majesty's having destined me the honor of succeeding you, I checked the inclination of paying my earliest attention till that form could be ascertained; but as no information has, as yet, reached me, you will excuse any omission which your candour must conclude is not wilful.

“At Lord North's request I have named the day for my leaving London, in consideration of your Excellency's wishes to return to England; it is fixed as early as the 22nd of January. This will, I flatter myself, be esteemed, as I am sure it was meant, a particular mark of attention and respect to you. General Johnston will take the liberty of enquiring as to what part of your equipage and horses it may be agreeable to you to part with.

“It would be trespassing upon your time to say more than to express my earnest wish that

when, hereafter, his Majesty may be pleased to recall me from that country, my departure may occasion half those regrets which must attend your Excellency to the Yacht. Lieut.-Colonel Valleney, whose work has been particularly approved by the King, has undertaken to deliver this.

“I have the honor to be, with the greatest truth and respect, &c.”

From Lord Buckingham to Earl Harcourt :—

“December 4th, 1776.

“MY LORD,—I have, this morning, mentioned to his Majesty and to Lord North an intended request to your Excellency which they approve. It is that the Sheriffs may be appointed before your Excellency leaves Ireland. At the moment of your departure it could not be attended with particular inconvenience to you, and it would save a great deal of embarrassing solicitation to me immediately upon my arrival, in a great degree a stranger to men and things. Your Excellency will, at all events, forgive this trouble, and believe me, with the greatest truth and respect, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

“PRIVATE.

“*December 5th, 1776.*

“MY DEAR LORD,—Your letter of the 24th of last month has revived my spirits; for I stood much in need of such a cordial to relieve me from a state of uncertainty and anxiety. It would have been very convenient to me, in many respects, if I could have left this Kingdom some months sooner; but, after giving your Lordship so much trouble to get Lord Buckingham to fix the time of his departure, I shall importune your Lordship no further, but shall most cheerfully submit to continue here in full confidence of his Lordship's being punctual to his engagement of the 22nd of January.

“I have not yet had the honour of hearing from Lord Buckingham, for which I am at a loss to account. I am willing to believe it must be owing to an accident; for, as I flatter myself I may be of some service to his Lordship, it cannot be his interest to shew me any disregard.

“The very kind notice your Lordship is pleased

to take of my services, and the honourable mention you make of them, will set a stamp of real value on them; because I am persuaded your Lordship would have thought less favourably of them than you have done if I had been less zealous and attentive to the welfare of his Majesty's Government, and the true interests of this Kingdom.

"I must request your Lordship to make my grateful acknowledgments to his Majesty for the late favours which he has been pleased so very graciously to grant at my recommendation, and particularly for the late instances of his Royal munificence to some of the leading interests of this city. I trust that some essential advantages will be derived from his Majesty's generosity to the citizens of Dublin, to compensate for any extraordinary expense that has been incurred on that account.

"I should not have applied for a reversionary grant, even for Mr. Scott, if it had not differed very materially from other life reversions; for it would not have induced any expense on government if Mr. Scott had survived the present grantees. But I give up the idea of a reversion for life, in hopes that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to grant the reversion of Clerk of the pleas to Mr. Scott during his Royal pleasure only.

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"I must, at the same time, do Mr. Scott the justice to remind you of his great and important services to the Crown; greater and more substantial than any of the servants of the Crown in this Kingdom can boast of. He stands clear of all party connections and support. His own merit first made him known; Lord Townshend first distinguished him; and I had the good fortune to recommend him to the station he now so honourably fills.

"The business of the Vice-Treasurers and Clerk of the Pells is, in a manner, settled, and by about Saturday next I shall be able to send over the draft of a King's letter that I hope will meet with your approbation. This affair, that has been some time depending, would have been settled sooner if the Attorney-General had not desired to postpone it till the term was over, that both he and the Solicitor-General, who have an immense deal of business, might have a little more leisure to attend to it.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Buckingham :—

"December 8th, 1776.

"MY LORD,—Yesterday morning I had the honour of your Excellency's letter of the 29th of

last month, which affords me an opportunity of congratulating your Excellency on your late appointment to a station which I am persuaded you will fill with that credit and reputation so essentially necessary for the government of this Kingdom.

“I am much obliged to Lord North, who knew how very inconvenient my continuance here has been, and to your Excellency for your acquiescence and attention to my situation so far as to give me the hopes of your leaving London on the 22nd of January. I flatter myself, when you become more acquainted with the state of this country, you will have no reason to repent of entering upon the government early enough to be acquainted with the leading people, and to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the interests of this Kingdom, before the meeting of the new parliament.

“I have told General Johnston, who spoke to me about the equipages and horses, that your Excellency may command any of them that you think fit for your purpose.

“I have the honour to be, &c.”

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

“ Greenwich, December 8th, 1776.

“MY LORD,— Might it not be advisable to state, for his Majesty’s information, collected together in one official dispatch, the present state of Ireland and the state of it upon your Excellency’s arrival in it. It may be done without the least reflection upon Lord Townshend, for he left it in as good a state as he found it. There was an arrear in Lord Hertford’s time proportionally greater than that which you found. A state of the country as it is, with an enumeration of the several points that have been carried, and, as Lord North calls it, of the victories gained by your administration, all of them on British rather than Irish objects, appear to me to deserve this kind of notice. Posterity, or your successor only, if you please, may then be brought to see at one view the whole of your important services to the Crown and to the public. Scattered as the records now stand, they will easily be lost and forgot.

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"If your Excellency approves of the idea, Mr. Lees and Mr. Waite might prepare a rough draft. It might be sent me, and I could add what my knowledge and memory should help me with; but it is impossible it should be prepared any where but on the spot. I remember proposing something of this sort at the end of the first session, but Mr. Waite opposed because it was premature. He thought it would make a proper dispatch at the close of your administration. God be praised that time is now arrived. . . .

"I am ever your Excellency's devoted

"and most obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Buckingham :—

“ December 9th, 1776.

“MY LORD,—I have just this moment received the honour of your Lordship’s letter. The appointment of the sheriffs is what any man, in my situation, would wish to avoid ; but I shall not decline it, as I think it may be for his Majesty’s service, and as it may afford me an opportunity of convincing your Excellency of the respect and esteem with which

“ I have the honour to be, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ December 12th, 1776.

“MY DEAR LORD,—The Primate called on me a few days ago and expressed an earnest desire that, before I left this Kingdom, I might find an opportunity of laying before his Majesty his most humble request to be honoured with an Irish peerage, that may, in default of his issue male, descend to his relation, Mr. Robinson of Kent, to whom the Baronetage descends, and to whom,

I understand, his Grace intends to leave his fortune.

“The high dignity which his Grace now enjoys makes it almost unnecessary to observe that this request does not proceed from any motives of personal vanity, but from a desire to perpetuate in his family the grateful remembrance of his obligations to the King, to whose Royal favour he owes the very exalted station he now enjoys. If his Majesty shall be pleased to confer this honour on the Primate, he means to lay out his fortune in this Kingdom, which has already been so essentially benefitted by his incessant care and application in the discharge of the important duties of the station, to which his whole attention has been uniformly directed.

“The Primate’s political conduct deserves the highest encomiums that can be given to it. He keeps clear of all political connections. He is an enemy to intrigue and faction. His only object is the King’s service, and the most honourable support of his government. What appears very extraordinary to me is, that during my four years’ residence in Ireland, his Grace has never asked the smallest favour of government. The only instance of the sort I know. I could not well avoid mentioning these circumstances without doing great injustice to the Primate’s character. These facts may, in some measure, justify my presump-

tion in mentioning this affair to your Lordship, almost at the eve of my leaving this government ; but I do it in this private manner, and before I take any official steps, that, in case his Majesty shall be disinclined to grant this favour, no further application may be made by,

“ My dear Lord, with the greatest

“ respect and esteem,

“ Your Lordship’s, &c.”

Letter from Lord Buckingham.

FROM Lord Buckingham to Earl Harcourt :—

“ *December 14th, 1776.*

“MY LORD,—I would not neglect the earliest opportunity of acknowledging your Excellency’s most polite letter of the 8th of this month. A man so much a stranger to Ireland as myself must wish for every possible information. I will, therefore, flatter myself that at my arrival it may be permitted me to avail myself of your knowledge, experience, and judgment. I must also request that, in the *interim*, you will direct Sir John Blaquiere to give Mr. Heron, my secretary, such lights as may be necessary for the effectually carrying on his Majesty’s government, which will ever be esteemed a particular favour.

“I have the honor to be, &c.”

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Buckingham :—

“ December 22nd, 1776.

“ MY LORD,—By to-morrow night, or Tuesday, I hope to furnish Sir John Blaquiere with some materials that may enable him to give your Excellency’s secretary some information that may not only be useful to him, but prove very convenient and advantageous to his Majesty’s affairs. When your Excellency arrives in Dublin you will find me ready, during the very short stay I shall make in this country, to give you all the assistance and information you may wish to receive from,

“ My Lord, with the greatest

“ truth and respect,

“ Your Excellency’s, &c.”

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

“ PRIVATE.

“ January 12th, 1777.

“ MY DEAR LORD,—I did not mean to give your Lordship any further trouble during my

short continuance on this side the water, but the distresses of our poor friend Lanesborough are such, that I could not help complying with his request that he might be the bearer of a letter to your Lordship, supplicating an additional pension of £500 a year to his younger children, to be held during his Majesty's pleasure.

"As his Lordship, at this moment, enjoys a pension of £1,200 a year, it was very incumbent upon me to lay before his Lordship the many difficulties to which an application of this nature would necessarily be subjected. But, relying on your Lordship's former friendship, on my sincere regard for him, and urged by his own pressing necessities, which are not of his creating, but arising from the profligacy and extravagance of an abandoned wife, I, at last, gave way to his very pressing instances, and shall give him a letter with which he proposes to wait upon your Lordship; undertaking the journey for that purpose, and with a view of paying his respects to your Lordship. But, as I thought it highly improper, on every account, that an affair of this sort should be mentioned to your Lordship without previously apprizing you of it, I have taken this opportunity of acquainting you that, whatever may be the result of this application, your Lordship may not be taken unawares by the inattention of,

"My dear Lord, &c."

Review of Earl Harcourt's Administration in Ireland.

A SUGGESTION thrown out by Sir John Blaquiere in one of his last letters appears to have been acted upon ; and the result is shewn in the following pages, which present a sketch of the chief events during Lord Harcourt's administration of Irish affairs.

Lord Harcourt's government seems to have been conducted in thorough accordance with the wishes of the King and of his ministers, until certain differences with the Irish Commander-in-chief, in which Sir John Blaquiere had some responsibility, and a misunderstanding with the English Home Office in respect to the drafting of troops to America from Ireland, caused Lord Harcourt to resign his post.

If we pass over the arrangements by which support was obtained for the government, and the system of pensions, which saddled

the tax-payers with burdens intolerable in their nature, Lord Harcourt's rule in Ireland must be considered beneficent. The exchequer was replenished with the least amount of friction, and the country was blessed with security and peace.

The melancholy ending which terminated the career of the Lord Lieutenant appears doubly sad, when we consider how earnestly he had longed for the repose and quietude which seemed within his reach at Nuneham.

All this, however, has been narrated in another place, and it now only remains to close this volume, which has attained unavoidably large proportions^a, by adding Mr. Lees' Memoir, to be followed by an Appendix.

"Dublin Castle, January 24th, 1777.

"MY LORD,—The following pages have nothing to recommend them to your Excellency's attention but the truths which they contain and the gratitude with which they are offered.

^a The volume was so large that it was found necessary to divide it into two. It now forms Vols. IX. and X. of the "Harcourt Papers."

“In this short sketch, which comprehends the material transactions of Lord Townshend’s and your Excellency’s administrations, you will be able clearly to trace, and, I hope, with satisfaction, the principles on which his Majesty’s government has been faithfully, vigorously, and steadily carried into effectual execution.

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“In resting from the painful labours, which for upwards of four years past you have unremittingly and indefatigably undergone, your Excellency will I trust feel a pleasure more solid than that which accompanies mere tranquillity and ease, when you reflect upon the eminent services which have been achieved for his Majesty and this Kingdom during your Excellency’s administration. You will feel happy in this conviction of having compleated a political system which if not rashly relinquished must render your name as estimable to the Prince into whose presence you return, as they are respected and dear to the Nation of whom you find it necessary to take leave.

“I have the honor to be, with the truest devotion,

“Your Excellency’s

“ever grateful and most sincerely

“attach’d humble Servant,

“JOHN LEES.”

Lord Townshend's Administration.

INTRODUCTION.

“IN the year 1767, when, upon the resignation of Lord Bristol, Lord Townshend was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the administration of this Kingdom was almost as absolutely in the hands of three or four Irish potentates as in former days it had been in the possession of Irish petty Princes upon the landing of Strongbow, in the reign of Henry the Second. The three next preceding Chief Governors, Lords Halifax, Northumberland, and Hertford, had found it necessary, in carrying on the King's business, as well as essential to their own personal quiet, to accommodate, to temporize, and very frequently to submit to those Irish Undertakers.

“It was a time of profound peace; yet no unusual requisition had been made on the part of the Crown, and no effort had been exerted by the authorities to restrain those enormous abuses, which, by dissipating the revenues of the Kingdom and usurping the Royal patronage, had so much contributed to oppress the people and aggrandize their rulers.

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“In addition to the power of the ‘Junto,’ the dif-

difficulties encountered at the commencement of Lord Townshend's administration were increased by some incautious menaces which had been launched by Lord Bristol. These menaces answered no other purpose than to put the Irish Undertakers thoroughly on their guard, and to give them sufficient time and opportunity to fortify themselves, to inflame the minds of their adherents, and, by the exercise on their part of every species of management and address, to render the residence of a Chief Governor in this Kingdom unsupportable and impracticable; as a consequence, when Lord Townshend arrived in this country he found that the Undertakers had combined against his government, not only every man of large parliamentary connection, but likewise almost every one distinguished for professional or personal abilities in the State, with the exception of Lord Tyrone, Mr. Malone, and Lord Chief Justice Patterson, then Solicitor-General, and had prepared them to seize the first fit occasion to rout the Lord Lieutenant out of the Kingdom, or to rule him as absolutely and despotically as they had heretofore dictated to and governed the weakest and most helpless of his predecessors.

"His Lordship's temperament was naturally not exactly formed to brook control, and having a quick and discerning eye, he saw instantly the necessity of raising an army of recruits to oppose

those trained bands thus disciplined and headed by his adversaries. For this purpose he addressed himself familiarly to the gentry ; entered at once into their genius and national turn to festivity ; looked out for all the young men of talents, and, by every art of insinuation and attention, engaged the affections of unconnected individuals, and raised a jealousy and discontent amongst many of the followers of the faction.

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“An augmentation of the army was thought necessary by his Majesty. The Lord Lieutenant deemed it wise to try, upon what was understood to be a favorite measure of the King’s, how far his Majesty’s servants and those Noblemen in Ireland who had been most distinguished by marks of the Royal favor would venture to hazard their situations and characters in opposition to the Royal wishes. By the vigorous exertions he caused to be put forth in the decision of that question in the House of Commons, he shewed the Undertakers the great independent strength of government, and at once exposed to the nation their weakness as a faction, and their ingratitude to the sovereign. He lost the question, it is true, by a majority of four, but in this single defeat he laid the permanent foundation of every future victory.

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"A law for limiting the duration of parliaments to eight years had been introduced by some popular leaders for their own sakes, and had been adopted by the Undertakers, partly from motives of opposition to government, but principally from a hope that without any probability of its passing into a law, they might gain credit with the nation, keep faith with their new allies, the Opposition, and be able to throw the odium of a rejection upon the Chief Governor.

"This bold and desperate hazard seems to have gone farther than the Undertakers could have wished, for the English government, being apprized of the game that those gentry were playing, sent back the bill with some immaterial alterations, determined at all events to let it pass. Accordingly, upon its return to Ireland, the bill passed into law, contrary to the interest and inclination of almost every man who voted for it in the House of Commons.

"This law, which altered the constitution of this Kingdom so materially has, among many others, been attended with the following certain and obvious consequences; by shortening the duration of parliaments, and necessarily enlarging the scale of expence, the establishments have been burdened, the power of particular families considerably diminished, borough hunting has become a more general pursuit, individuals have grown more

important, the House of Lords has grown more respectable and crowded, the House of Commons has become more insignificant, and the Crown, in the end, has been rendered more powerful and independent.

“In consequence of the dissolution which took place under this law a new parliament was called, and, the same disposition continuing in the Undertakers, his lordship thought proper to prorogue the new parliament, having first taken care to pass the bills for granting the supplies, in which were included a provision for the augmentation, which measure had failed in the preceding session.

“The interval of the recess was employed by his Lordship in initiating vigorous measures for a parliamentary campaign, and in providing for the general defence of the Kingdom.

“Lord Shannon, Lord Lanesborough, and Mr. Ponsonby, were removed, the first from the board of ordnance, the two latter from the revenue board; and Lord Ely, with a considerable following, was detached from his kinsman Mr. Ponsonby.

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“The dignity of the government being thus, in some degree, restored, by rescuing the power of the Crown out of the hands of those servants who, by an abuse of their trust, had usurped its influence, the business of parliament, during a short session

in spring, 1771, went on with a surer foot, embarrassed though it was by the most peevish and harassing opposition. Scarcely a day passed without a debate which lasted from nine to twelve hours, and his Lordship's dispatches were often prepared between the hours of 12 at night and 3 o'clock in the morning. This parliamentary warfare was frequently carried on upon idle amendments to trivial resolutions, points of order, and proceedings of the House of Commons. It was at last found necessary to question the judgment of the then Speaker, Mr. Ponsonby, in three or four striking instances where his decision was found to lean invariably to the faction that supported him. On these occasions Mr. Tisdale, the Attorney-General, who then conducted the House of Commons in support of the administration, defeated the Speaker, who, finding that his followers deserted him, resigned the chair, from which, indeed, Lord Townshend had it in contemplation to remove him. Mr. Pery, the present Speaker, was then, by a majority of four only, elected by the supporters of administration.

“Upon the meeting of parliament in the following October, for purposes of supply, the virulence of the opposition was renewed, and was exercised to such an intolerable degree, that it soon after became necessary for the government to take measures of self-defence. The first step taken

was to introduce a clause into the Commissioners' patent, making the appointment to all employments subject to the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant for the time being; and secondly a board of accounts was instituted consisting of five Commissioners, whose business it was to audit and examine all impress and other accounts which did not fall under the controul of the Lord Chancellor and Chancellor and Barons of the Exchequer; officers who, by the act of Henry the 7th, were appointed to settle the national revenues.

"This session was also distinguished by the repeal of a clause in the revenue Act of the 14 and 15 Cha. 2nd, which gave a drawback of half the custom upon all rum imported from his Majesty's plantations into England, and afterwards exported from thence. The old law, in fact, operated as a premium upon smuggling, as, by touching upon the coasts of England, Scotland, or Wales, before a landing in Ireland, the greater part of the cargo was generally 'run.' The estimate of the saving to the hereditary revenue from the repeal of this clause was computed to amount to no less than £40,000, and was the avowed justification, on the part of the government, for any increase of expence which the subsequent division of the revenue boards, and the establishment of the new board of accounts must have created.

"Before Lord Townshend's time nothing was

more universal than the practice of exchanging pensions, and selling civil employments and half pay. The public prints were filled with advertisements of persons who wished to buy or sell or exchange offices. The consequences were evident. No man felt his obligation to the Crown, nor any obligation to fit himself for his station. To Lord Townshend's administration belonged the honour of insisting that the only allowable claims to preferment or recommendation, should be zealous attachment to the government, long and faithful service, and capacity and eminent integrity. Thus a shameful and ruinous traffick was, under these regulations, universally put an end to.

"The administration of Justice had been shockingly perverted and abused in Ireland by the most partial appointment of such sheriffs as best suited the convenience or tended to gratify the resentments of a few great men.

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"But this state of affairs was soon put an end to under the new *regime*—which aimed at teaching moderation and justice to all parties.

"The Irish Privy Council had arrogated to itself the power of controuling the property and influence of Corporations just as it answered the private purposes of the Undertakers. This enormity was grounded upon a misconstruction of the

rules annexed to, and prescribed by, a law in Charles the 2nd's time, by which the Lord Lieutenant and Council are empowered to approve or disapprove of Magistrates, annually chosen. This power was intended merely to guard against the machinations of persons supposed to be disaffected; but upon many occasions the Lords Justices and the Council took upon themselves to go into the merits of elections at large; and so by that summary and unwarranted proceeding they superseded his Majesty's Courts of law, and gave away a borough with as much ease as they signed a Warrant of *Concordatum*. The first instance in which this abuse was corrected serves no less to shew the magnanimity of the Chief Governor than the indecent and ungrateful opposition that was offered to him.

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“The military state of this country had been miserably neglected, and, tho’ no nation, from every circumstance relative to its local and political situation, more required protection and defence, yet none on earth was, at the commencement of Lord Townshend’s administration, more defenceless. During the Duke of Bedford’s administration a French smuggler, Mons^r. Thurot, with three or four contemptible vessels, threw the whole Kingdom into confusion and consternation, and almost threatened a general bankruptcy.

“Lord Townshend made, in the recess of his first parliament, a tour to the south of Ireland attended by engineers and persons qualified to execute his designs. He repaired several fortifications ; caused correct charts to be made of the coast ; and organized a plan for a line of barracks to run from south to north, quite thro’ the Kingdom. This plan, if carried out in its integrity must, besides affording ample accommodation for the King’s army, tend at once to civilize the natives, and to defend them against foreign enemies, as well as against each other.

“The law for limiting the duration of parliaments would have operated more slowly in demolishing the extravagant power and strength of the Irish potentates, had not the law for determining controverted elections upon petitions to parliament, been passed in this Kingdom in aid of the octennial law.

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“It was notorious that during the late reign, and before it, every candidate for a seat in parliament, whatever his pretensions or his merits, constantly made it the foundation of his expectations to inlist under the banners of certain parliamentary leaders ; and voting for or against such a petitioner was as much a matter of course and question of power as dividing about snuffing or lighting the candles. Every candidate openly so-

licited, and in his solicitation stated that Mr. Ponsonby or the Primate, Lord Shannon or the Duke of Leinster, was his friend.

“This indecent license gave those leaders entire ascendancy, so that the House of Commons, and a great part of the House of Lords, were their creatures and nominees. This law, however, which introduced a sworn jury, gave conscientious men such an argument, and selfish men such a pretext, for doing right, or, at least, for not implicitly doing wrong, that it instantly cut the tap root of those potentates’ power; and, from the instant that Lord Townshend passed this law, called in England Mr. Greenville’s act, every man was at liberty to act as he pleased, by following the dictates of conscience, or his judgment, or his will, according to his character.

“Another abuse which contributed to this provincial tyranny was the privilege of parliament. Many members got into parliament to protect their estates from chancery, and their persons from a gaol. The law for taking away the privilege of parliament (tho’, with much difficulty, passed in Lord Townshend’s time, and made perpetual in Lord Harcourt’s), proportioned men’s credit to their integrity, and not to the protection of their parliamentary patrons. It extended, however, only to members of parliament, and their real or adopted servants; and, therefore, it became

necessary, not only for the purpose of satisfying the creditors of members of parliament, but also of all persons connected with them, to make a further provision for their debts. This was effected by the mortgage law, passed in the same administration, by which every mortgagee was empowered to apply to a court of equity, by petition, as soon as a year and a half's interest had become due, and to have a receiver appointed over the entire estate of his debtor, without the trouble or expence of instituting a suit or filing a bill. Still, however, the spirit of dissipation and expence, and those frauds which must ever attend men whose distresses arise from profligacy, made it necessary to go one step further by the passing a bankrupt law, by which some stability was given to the mercantile credit of this Kingdom. By this law British creditors were placed upon an equal footing with Irish creditors; Merchants were prevented from passing fictitious securities to their kinsmen and neighbours; and a fictitious and spurious credit was abolished. Thus, men learned to live in proportion to their real means, to support themselves by industry, and to imitate the example of their British correspondents whom they had formerly made the dupes of their imposition, and the victims of their knavery and expence.

“These were the principal laws passed under

Lord Townshend's administration, which was characterised throughout by scenes of warfare, struggles for power, and contests for superiority.

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"The united powers of the Kingdom were interested in opposing the government; the passions of the people were inflamed; the press teemed with hourly scurrility and libellous invective; and every tongue that could talk, and every pen that could scribble, were hired to villify and calumniate the chief governor.

"It was not, therefore, extraordinary that upon Lord Harcourt's appointment to the government of Ireland, in 1772, he found himself crossing a very troubled sea, and felt it an enterprize of the most arduous difficulty to conduct with any degree of honor and safety to himself, and advantage to his Sovereign, the administration of a Kingdom rent with faction, inflamed with prejudice, immersed in debt, sunk in credit, exhausted in resources, and distracted by the intrigues and ambition of its irritated, but not yet overwhelmed, leaders and partizans.

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"To expect good humour from an exasperated parliament; to call for money from an exhausted treasury; to prescribe economy to a corrupt community; to impose taxes upon a bankrupt nation; to demand forces from a defenceless people; were

difficulties peculiar to Lord Harcourt's administration. Such difficulties were surmountable only by the most extraordinary exertions of sagacity and spirit, by a persevering attention to business, an unruffled temper, a uniform steadiness of conduct, and an unremitting zeal for the King's service, and for the public welfare."

Earl Harcourt's Administration.

LORD HARCOURT having arrived at Dublin Castle the 30th November, 1772, to take upon him the government of Ireland, the following sheets will contain a brief account of the principal transactions during his administration, founded upon the most unquestionable evidences.

For the sake of order and distinctness the subjects are divided into chapters of one or more articles each.

CHAPTER I.

STATE OF PARTIES AT EARL HARCOURT'S ENTRANCE UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.

"As the opening of Lord Harcourt's first session drew near, his Excellency found it desirable to consider the dispositions and designs of the principal men of note in the Kingdom.

"Lord Shannon, who had made his approaches to the Castle upon the eve of Lord Townshend's

retreat, was, from the superiority of his following, as well as from the strength of his understanding, the first whom it was necessary to approach. He asked no other terms for his friends than such as had been proposed to Lord Townshend, and by him transmitted to England. These terms were, as far as practicable, very readily agreed to on Lord Harcourt's part; and Lord Shannon was thenceforth received and treated as that unequivocal supporter of the government which he has since proved himself to be thro' the whole of the present administration.

"The Duke of Leinster professed personal attachment to his Excellency, but wished to stipulate and prescribe.

"Mr. Ponsonby, at the beginning, shewed himself so poor a politician that he omitted the most common civilities due to a new Lord Lieutenant. He, however, greedily embraced the opportunity of waiting on his Excellency at the head of the Protestant Dissenters when they presented their address. He then made an apology for not having presented himself sooner, which, he said, was owing to his having mistaken the Levee day. The characteristic unsteadiness of this gentleman made his appearance of goodwill a true prognostic of opposition.

"Mr. Flood, who had long acted in constant and violent opposition to the government, during

Lord Townshend's administration, came at a sufficiently early period to wait on Lord Harcourt, who upon that occasion shewed no eagerness about securing his support, however desirable it afterwards became to attach him to government.

"It may be sufficient, on the subject of parties, to add, that Lord Ely and his adherents were already detached from opposition and provided for; Lord Tyrone and his friends firmly attached; the Gores divided, and not to be considered as of much consequence; the unconnected patriots meditating the gratification of their own private views; and the Townshend squadron compact and quiet.

"In fine, although in several instances support was withheld which might have been expected from men most highly favoured, yet the influence of the Crown, upon the whole, predominated. What was most reassuring, however, was that, in all cases of importance, Lord Harcourt had the pleasure to see his administration supported by men of respectable characters and independent fortunes, who neither had received nor asked favours for themselves nor their friends.

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"In all these matters great assistance was rendered by the address, quick discernment, firmness, and abilities, of the Chief Secretary, and by a few

chosen faithful friends, among whom Mr. Scott, now Solicitor-General, bore a distinguished part, and gave, on all occasions, a ready, decisive, and effectual support.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE PUBLIC DEBTS AND FUNDS, EX- CLUSIVE OF APPROPRIATED DUTIES ^a.

“ These, at the first glance, afforded but a melancholy prospect ; the revenue had, in effect, declined for years back ; insomuch that upon comparing the *net* hereditary revenue and additional duties for the five years preceeding 1772, with the five years preceeding 1767, there was found to be a decrease upon the latter five years of £106,621. The national debt, by the generosity of the late King, had been paid off entirely in 1753. Under the administration, however, of the Duke of Bedford in the year 1759 this debt began again to accumulate, and has continued to do so under every succeeding government up to the present time ; until at Lady-day, 1773, it was voted to amount to £994,890.

“ The distress occasioned to the treasury was very great, and a further alarming circumstance was exhibited by the existence of heavy arrears

^a Appropriated duties making no part of the Hereditary Revenue.

upon the establishments both civil and military. An exhausted treasury afforded no hopes of any fund, to be relied on, for supplying even the most immediate and necessary expences of government, far less of discharging the arrears. The deficiency for the two years preceeding Lady-day, 1773, was no less than £138,840 per annum. That is to say, the hereditary revenue, burdened, as it had been of late years, by corn premiums, bounties, parliamentary grants, &c., was now become insufficient, in a sum to that extent, for paying up the establishments and defraying the other necessary expences of the government.

“Added to the above burdens, at this time, or rather upon the 30th November, 1772, the day of Lord Harcourt’s arrival in Ireland, the pension list—including French pensions—amounted to £79,933.

“An enormous expence had also been entailed on the hereditary revenue by the bounties paid for various articles, particularly corn by land carriage. This had increased every year since its commencement in 1758, under the Duke of Bedford’s administration. And in the year ending at Lady-day, 1773, it amounted to no less than £44,508. .

“These causes are justly to be considered sufficient in themselves to account for an exhausted treasury, which, at this period, threatened Ireland with bankruptcy and disgrace.

“The shortest view that can be given of affairs,
as they then stood, is this,

In the accompts made up for the two years ending Lady-day, 1773, the charges of government were	. £1,621,142
The revenues produced only	. 1,343,461

Consequently there was a deficiency of revenue, for that period, of	. 277,680
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Or, for one year, of	. 138,840
Also an arrear due upon the several establishments at Michaelmas, 1773, of	. 265,000

To be provided for	. £403,840
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“How provision was to be made for so large
a sum, immediately wanted both to supply the
most pressing demands of government, and to
save the state from the danger of bankruptcy,
seemed no easy matter to determine upon. Much
deliberation was necessary, and little time allowed
for it. A plan, however, was speedily and well
digested, and as happily executed; some account
of which shall form the subject of the following
chapter.

* * * * *

“Every thing being prepared for the parliament,
which was to meet on the 12th October, 1773, his

Excellency opened his first session by a very short speech. He did not chuse, however, to alarm the House of Commons by such a picture of the state of affairs, with regard to debts and funds, as he might justly, and from his own feelings, have drawn; and he, therefore, left these things to be discovered in the common and necessary course of enquiry.

CHAPTER III.

PLAN FOR PAYING OFF THE ARREARS, AND
EQUALIZING THE REVENUE TO THE CHARGES
OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING NEW REGULA-
TIONS, REDUCTIONS, AND NEW SUPPLIES.

“First, as to arrears.

“The expedient hit upon was to raise £265,000 by a tontine act, granting life annuities, or interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, with benefit of survivorship.

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“The effect of this act was soon seen in the rise of government debentures upon the old loan from 91 to 99; and several leading members of the opposition expressed the highest approbation of the scheme, in general, and did not scruple to declare that they considered the restoration of public credit to be imputed singly to the operation

of the Tontine scheme. The difference in debentures alone amounted to £80,000, which was, in effect, so much gained to the nation. The treasury was relieved, the public was pleased, and individuals who had before hoarded up their wealth, either to embarrass government, or turn the public exigency to a usurious advantage, in expectation of a new loan, were now obliged to lend those sums out to persons in trade, or upon mortgage. In short a general vigour seemed to have been infused into the money market, and in the place of stagnation and despondency a universal circulation took place. This instance of successful operation in finance, and the retrenchments which took place upon the re-uniting of the revenue boards, and the reduction of parliamentary grants, gave a general credit to the administration, and procured to it a confidence without which it had been impossible to have carried any of those considerable points which were afterwards obtained for the Crown without a murmur.

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“With respect to the annual deficiency of £138,840 his Excellency's first consideration was to estimate what might be done by regulation and reduction.

“Parliamentary grants restricted.

“It had been a practice during many years for

parliament to grant away very considerable sums, in every bill of supply, under a multitude of pretences, such as, the encouragement and execution of public works ; rewards to ingenious men ; compensation in this and the other case ; which in general, and with very few exceptions, were all of them mere private jobs. Lord Townshend found these grants increased to the amount of £119,000, and it was a strong proof of his Lordship's management that he was able to reduce them to £67,000 in his last session of parliament.

"In Lord Harcourt's first session they were reduced to £34,000 including the £4,000 of allowance to the Speaker ; so that in place of £17,000, as estimated, there has been a saving of £33,000 upon this article.

"In respect to the corn premiums, the excess of which in the two years ending 1775 amounted to £33,577, such excess was provided for and made good by the Tontine act of the second session, as shall be more particularly mentioned in its proper place.

* * * * *

"The next measure that came under Lord Harcourt's consideration was the absentee tax.

"For half a century past the Irish, in general, had considered a tax upon absentees as a most just and necessary one, and it was held in Ireland that if an English ministry could be prevailed

upon to listen to it, it would be so salutary in its consequences, as to relieve this Kingdom from the greatest of its distresses. The opinion was formed upon the following grounds: that Englishmen possessing great estates in Ireland and residing constantly in England did, by spending their incomes there, impoverish this country, without contributing ought to the public expence. That the nobility and gentry of Ireland whose business or pleasure led them to London or to Bath to spend their fortunes, did, so far, apply the produce of their estates to the advantage of a foreign country.

“That, in both cases, the non-resident Irish proprietors became exempted from many of those taxes to which residents in the country were liable, and which, therefore, fall the heavier on those who remained in the Kingdom. That, consequently, there was a sort of delinquency in this practice which ought not to be suffered if a remedy could be found. The natural and reasonable remedy appeared to be a tax of so much in the pound on absentees. It was argued with respect to those who had estates in England, and constantly resided there, that this would make some compensation to Ireland for the money annually drawn out of it; and as to those who left it occasionally, it would either restrain such a humour, or counterbalance its effects. It was

imagined, however, that the English ministry, too partial where the immediate interest of England was in question, would never consent to such a law.

“Lord Harcourt, being made acquainted with the wishes of Ireland upon this subject, and thoroughly apprized of the magnitude of so important a measure, found it necessary, at a time of uncommon distress for resources, to recommend the consideration of this tax to the English administration.

“His Majesty and his ministers acquiesced in the idea, provided it should be accompanied with other taxes, such as the Stamp act; but a particular point was made that at the same time a limitation should be set to the enormous expence of the bounty on corn by land carriage.

“Lord Harcourt became, therefore, pledged on the one side, and the English ministry on the other, conditionally to carry this project into execution. The scheme was soon publicly known, and the Duke of Devonshire, Lords Rockingham, Milton, Shelburne, Besborough, and others, were alarmed. A correspondence between them and Lord North took place, and was printed. These Lords were in opposition, and, having great estates in Ireland, would be principally affected by it. This circumstance gave a new complexion to the affair, and tended, not a little, by adding public

prejudice to the private interest of individuals, to make those who first expressed the warmest wishes in favour of the scheme the principal instruments in its defeat. Lord Harcourt permitted a motion to be made for this tax. Sir John Blaquiere declared his Excellency's sentiments to the House, and the part government meant to take on the occasion, namely, not to lead but to follow the wishes of the House. Administration here acted fairly, and Lord North was steady to his real engagements. A very long debate ensued; but, upon a division, the motion was rejected by 120 to 106.

"However surprising such an issue was upon a measure of such expectation and supposed general desire, yet it was equally surprising, and most embarrassing to the Castle, to find a motion made the following evening, in a very thin House, and at a late hour, to have the question re-considered. The Secretary prevailed with the House to postpone the re-consideration for two days. It was again moved, and debated for nine hours; and, at last, this tax, so long the hope and expectation of Ireland, was a second time rejected, and without a division, by the Irish House of Commons. This marked so plainly the motives of opposition to Lord Harcourt's administration, and threw the odium of rejection so strongly upon the popular leaders, that the public, from thenceforward, sus-

pected the sincerity of the patriots, and placed a greater confidence in the integrity of the Lord Lieutenant.

CHAPTER IV.

OF AFFAIRS DURING THE RECESS OF PARLIAMENT.

“Dr. Andrews, the Provost of Trinity College, having died, it became a matter of some difficulty how to arrange the Office of Provost. The emoluments were from £2,000 to £2,500 a year; the trust highly important; some patronage; a borough, if well managed; and the place uniformly granted for life.

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“Mr. Ponsonby, without any past merit with administration, or any security for future support, asked it, and was instantly refused. Mr. Flood, whose merit was founded chiefly in his not using his very considerable powers of speech against the government, had, from some late conversation with Sir John Blaquiere, conceived that it was his Excellency's intention to give him the first great employment which should become vacant. He affected to be much chagrined that the place of Provost was not offered, altho', at the same time, he rated himself so highly as not to say whether he would have accepted it.

“Mr. Hutchinson had all along been a warm supporter of Lord Harcourt's administration. He held the offices of Prime Sergeant and Alnager. He offered to relinquish both for the Provostship. His Excellency was pleased to find a decent layman, whose advancement to an office for which he was esteemed eminently well qualified might be supposed especially to forward the King's business. Mr. Hutchinson was considerable in point of station, fortune, and abilities, a very good scholar, and seemed chiefly desirous of relief from attendance at the bar, that he might have leisure to cultivate and enjoy his taste in letters. He was an old servant of the Crown, and dependent upon it for many grants, during pleasure.

“Lord Harcourt, finding that he could not, at that time, fix upon any other man better qualified for the station, recommended, with much warmth, Mr. Hutchinson for the place of Provost. His Majesty consented; and, tho' no man was surprised at his getting the office, yet many were amazed to find that he had solicited it. It was then understood that he was to retire from the bar, and apply himself wholly to the business of the college, and that of government in the House of Commons. The salary of £1,000 which had been added to the Alnage was transferred to him and his three sons, under a different title, that of searcher, packer, and gauger, of Strangford.

“Lord Harcourt intended the office of Alnager, with an additional salary of £1,000, making together £1,800 a year, for Mr. Flood, considering it as a very ample provision for that gentleman. He, however, declined it in every way that the proposition could be made to him. Full of his own importance, he had now set his heart upon the emoluments of the Vice-Treasurership. This his Excellency found himself under the necessity of recommending, and, after almost insurmountable difficulties, this office was obtained for him. Mr. Flood then affected to refuse it under pretence that it came accompanied with new burdens on the establishments. But about the time of the meeting of the second session he suffered himself to be persuaded that, if the place was still open, he could not do better than accept of it. A new application was made, and this business, extremely vexatious from first to last, was at length settled to Mr. Flood’s apparent satisfaction.

“The office of Alnager was given to the Secretary^b for a term of thirty-one years; and the Prime Serjeancy to Mr. Dennis, the principal friend of Lord Shannon, which opened another movement or two in the narrow line of the law.

“A plan was formed to deprive the King of his inheritance in the Phoenix Park.

“Mr. Ponsonby and the Opposition had, by al-

^b Colonel Blaquiere.

tering the measure of beer and ale in a former session, lessened the hereditary revenue £20,000 per annum. If such a Royalty as the Phoenix Park could have been wrested from the Crown, between the sessions, it would have been a victory of more consequence than a volume of resolutions ; its intrinsic value being not less than £200,000, and the dishonour to the Crown more than ten times that sum, if it should be lost.

“The scheme which occurred was by presenting one of the King’s lodges as a nuisance ; and from one it was intended to go to another, and so on until four or five beautiful improvements, upon which not less than £10,000 had been expended, should be prostrated. An effort had been made about fourteen years before upon the Royal Hospital, and in some degree successfully, by levelling the walls round it, and making three or four common roads through the King’s private estate.

“The attempt was made upon the Park at the summer quarter sessions. The Bailiff’s lodge, with the improvements about it by enclosure, were presented as a common nuisance to the citizens of Dublin, who claimed it under pretended corporation charters, by prescription, or as a common by usage.

“The utmost vigilance and activity were employed by his Excellency to prevent the imme-

diate prostration. The presentment was traversed. One of the Judges of the King's Bench, Mr. Justice Robinson, whether from motives of resentment or pique, or for the purpose of laying a foundation of future request, or for popularity, or from a combination of these motives, absolutely joined the mob, and, by opinion out of court, and every other means that he could suggest, endeavoured to have the presentment supported and the lodge prostrated.

“The presentment was, with difficulty, removed into the King's Bench to be tried; and recently, before the trial, the venerable judge who was to try the cause came to his Excellency to solicit a pension of £400 per annum for his wife, which was heard with patience, but rejected with disdain. The indecency of his conduct upon the trial was aggravated afterwards by his refusing, under pretence of being a check upon the Royal Grace, to countersign a pardon granted by the Lord Lieutenant, tho' expressly directed to do it by Act of Parliament. These acts were followed by several other outrageous instances of sedition and rapacity on his part, such as making peremptory demands of sums of money for the ordinary execution of his duty; and formally proposing to his brethren upon the bench, upon a scarcity of cash in the treasury, that until they should be first paid their stipends they should not go circuit. These

things together obliged his Excellency to lay the particulars of his conduct before his Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General of England; and, upon their report, apply to have him removed. But the verdict of the jury, after a laborious research into the King's titles, being in favour of the Crown, motives of compassion to the Judge's age and family induced his Excellency to spare him, and the punishment of his enormities was suspended for the present.

"This manœuvre of Opposition was the most indecent and outrageous; the jury were, by practising on the Sheriff, selected from the most noted leaders in opposition, and from the marked followers of Mr. Ponsonby. The success of the Crown, therefore, was chiefly due to Mr. Scott, since made Solicitor-General, whose active vigilance during the whole of that business, as well as his uniform fidelity and zeal for the King's service, during the administrations of Lord Townshend and Lord Harcourt, would make it unjust to pass over in silence his distinguished exertions and abilities in the political history of those times.

"The title of the Crown being established, and the attempt to overthrow it sufficiently exposed, such a damp was cast upon every factious experiment that no further attempt was made upon any of the King's rights, previous to the second session. Upon the commencement of that epoch

there was not (with the exception of Mr. Scott) a single servant of the Crown who did not either openly or secretly oppose the administration. The Provost loitered in the country, and declined attending the speech from the throne. The Attorney-General had uniformly acted coldly or with hostility. The Prime Sergeant attended to his private concerns. Mr. Flood had not yet accepted the office of Vice-Treasurer. America was in arms, and it had been industriously circulated thro' Great Britain, and asserted in the English House of Lords, that the Irish to a man were disposed to take part with America.

CHAPTER V.

TRANSACTIONS IN LORD HARCOURT'S SECOND SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, 1775-6.

"This Parliament having met for the dispatch of business, the 10th October, 1775, His Excellency opened it with a speech, and

"I. *The Parliament of Ireland in their addresses to his Majesty declare their abhorrence of the American rebellion.*

"Lord Harcourt, from a zeal for the King's service, tho' he might have declined the difficulty, was determined to contradict what had been asserted in the English Parliament, and, by a na-

tional declaration, make the Parliament and people of Ireland parties in the war against America. For this purpose, in his speech at the opening of this session, he pronounced the Colonists rebels, and drew from both Houses of Parliament addresses filled with the warmest terms of loyalty to the Crown, and abhorrence of the American rebellion.

"He saw that omitting an attempt of this kind would be deserting his Royal Master, and that silence upon the subject would be the most explicit declaration in favor of America. It was certainly a bold attempt on the part of Irish government, and the events which followed it proved its wisdom and advantage to English administration. A long and violent debate ensued upon the addresses, which was upheld and conducted on the part of government in the House of Commons almost entirely by the Secretary and Mr. Scott, Mr. Ponsonby's and the Duke of Leinster's followings were vehement in their opposition; but, on a division, the address was carried by 99 to 49. And, in the House of Lords, a similar address by 31 to 5.

*"2. Four thousand Men spared for the
American War.*

"It had been asserted by many leaders in Opposition, in the English Parliament, that Ireland

had, at that time, in her power either Peace or War with America ; and Mr. Bourke, particularly, had censured the dulness of his countrymen in omitting to take advantage of the critical situation, either to distress Great Britain by peremptory and unusual demands on the behalf of Ireland, or by declaring their sentiments in favor of the Colonies. Thus they would force English administration to terms of reconciliation and concession, which might make the colonists partizans of Ireland upon future occasions.

“The loyal and explicit conduct of the Irish Parliament not only kept the Northern Presbyterians quiet, but absolutely pledged the Nation for supply. The English Minister accordingly availed himself of the opening given to him by his Excellency, and immediately made a requisition for 4,000 men to be sent from the Irish Establishment to America. He, nevertheless, thought it reasonable, not only that England should pay those 4,000 men, but should also replace them by 4,000 foreigners, to be likewise paid by Great Britain. In other words, that in return for Ireland's sparing 4,000 men, England should pay 8,000 men. So highly advantageous, and of such importance was it at that time thought to the King's service to have a force from Ireland on any terms.

“When the augmentation in 1769 was carried

by administration, it was upon an express stipulation that there should be 12,000 men kept constantly in Ireland for its defence, except in cases of rebellion or invasion in Great Britain. This stipulation was recited in every act of supply, from that time, as the consideration for Ireland's making provision for the payment of the 15,046 men upon the Irish Establishment.

"A message was prepared by his Excellency, and sent to both Houses of Parliament, signifying his Majesty's pleasure that 4,000 men should be sent from Ireland to America; and giving an option to have those 4,000 men replaced by foreign troops, if the parliament thought proper.

* * * * * *

"To this message an answer was returned offering the 4,000 Irish, and declining, for the present, to request foreigners in their place.

"The Opposition in the English House of Commons raised two objections to the measure: 1. That Lord Harcourt had undertaken for the British Parliament, that they should pay for 4,000 men; and, next, that his Excellency had made a proposal which was contrary to law, vizt., to introduce foreigners; a proceeding which could not be effected without an English act. To these objections the answer was simple and obvious. Lord Harcourt's message was on behalf of Great Britain, if Great Britain should think proper to fulfil the

terms. These terms, both as to the payment of the troops and the introduction of foreigners must be ratified by the English Parliament. If that Parliament did not think proper to comply, matters would remain as they were.

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“By proceeding thus a great deal of time and debate would be saved; for, if the measure had first been suggested in the English Parliament, the Opposition would not only have resisted it there, but would have endeavoured to inflame the minds of the Irish against it; whereas having first obtained the consent of the Irish Parliament, nothing remained afterwards but to obtain the concurrence of the British Parliament to an act already agreed to by the country to be principally affected. In further support of the mode agreed to by Lord Harcourt, it was the opinion of the most eminent lawyers, that the King could send foreigners to Ireland, without the consent of the British Parliament, if his Majesty paid them himself. His Excellency's action was, however, complained of in the English House of Commons, but it was avowed and applauded by Lord North, in Parliament, as highly commendable.

“Men who wished to cavil at Lord Harcourt's administration made another objection. It was said that his Excellency should, for the defence of Ireland, have forced the introduction of foreigners.

To this it was answered, and the event has justified the part adopted by Lord Harcourt, that, with attention and management, Ireland might well spare 4,000 men, and still be preserved in peace. Moreover, that if the expence of 4,000 foreigners could be spared to Great Britain, it would be wantonness to create such a charge. If, indeed, we may reason from the conduct of the last foreign troops that were introduced into this kingdom by King William, his Excellency had more to apprehend from the prejudices of the country against them, and from the mischiefs likely to happen to them here, than from all the risings of White Boys or Steel Boys at home, or from the terrors of invasion from abroad. Another difficulty was made. The Attorney-General here, whose duty it is to prepare money bills, had inserted an enacting clause, '*That it should be lawful* for his Majesty to send out of this Kingdom to America 4,000 men.'

* * * * *

"His Majesty's law servants in England, however, were of opinion that the King was only *personally* bound to keep 12,000 men in this Kingdom, and that the record of his royal determination to do so made it highly indecorous to violate his word, but that it was not a violation of law. Many men, high in reputation, on this side, argued first that the distinction was a reflection on Ma-

jesty, and then boldly asserted that it was against law to remove any part of the 12,000 men without an act of parliament; on the grounds that the keeping 12,000 men within the Kingdom was the express consideration for raising and paying them. The Irish bill, however, was altered in Great Britain; this was considered as an ungracious and disrespectful treatment of the Irish parliament. It was in fact a repetition of what had been done in the former session, vizt., the alteration of a money bill in several material parts, a proceeding which had been highly resented. His Excellency, nevertheless, had the good fortune and address to procure the adoption of the alterations.

"The bill was sent back to Great Britain, and, returning a second time from thence, it passed into a law. Thus 4,000 men were furnished for the American service, at a time when almost every man in the North was, in his heart, an American, as was stated and complained of in the House of Lords here, by Lord Hillsborough; and when nine-tenths of the people in the South were Papists and White Boys, in hourly expectation of assistance from France or Spain.

"A last scruple was put forward, namely, whether an act of parliament providing for 12,000 men, and passed subsequently to resolutions of both Houses to part with 4,000 men, did not revoke those resolutions. To meet this a declaratory act was

passed, re-instating those resolutions; asserting the power of the Crown; securing the assistance of the 4,000 men to Great Britain; and removing the suspicions, as well as quieting the jealousies, of the Irish House of Commons.

CHAPTER VI.

MATTERS OF POLICE, IN GENERAL.

“January, 1776.

“His Excellency was ever watchful to preserve the country in peace and quietness, and to remove apprehension either as to the danger of domestic risings, or the possibility of foreign invasion. In this view he took occasion, from an accidental outrage upon an individual in Munster, to direct a special commission to be instituted. This was attended by his Majesty's ablest council, and conducted with great solemnity and care. The awful and dignified manner in which justice was calmly and resolutely administered by the execution of the ruffians found guilty of the murders, struck such a universal terror as has left this country for the first time these sixteen years in perfect tranquillity to this hour. Thus it was that when a general return was ordered by his Excellency of all the prisoners confined for crimes throughout the Kingdom, and of the general state of the

gaols; the number of malefactors appeared so inconsiderable, that it was admitted by the Chancellor that he had known more persons tried at one assize in England than all the prisons in Ireland contained.

“The force spared for America left the Kingdom with not more than 5,000 men fit for service. Knowing, however, that the resources of the country were amply sufficient for its necessities in this respect, and finding a number of scattered and useless invalids, his Excellency recommended to his Majesty that these should be formed into ten companies, to consist of 100 men each, and should be officered from the half-pay lists. This at once not only made the expence of foreign aid unnecessary, but avoided the cost of maintaining the invalids, by applying them to the domestic purposes for which he conceived them to be adequate.

“His Excellency put arms into the hands of these invalid companies, and, for some time, permitted the Protestants in different parts of the Kingdom to serve upon several occasions, in the form of militia. This, at that time, was actually necessary to rid the country of White Boys; and an expectation of a militia law being passed tempted the gentry of the Kingdom to anticipate at their own expence the execution of such a law. As soon, however, as it appeared to Lord Harcourt that it was not his Majesty’s pleasure to

have a militia arrayed here, and that the country through every part of it had been restored to profound quiet, the assembling of any bodies of men was forbidden, and the practice instantly died away with the necessity that produced it.

“Lord Harcourt, being of an active disposition and using much exercise, constantly visited his acquaintance, without pomp or parade, and of course saw the undisguised situation of every class of people in the metropolis.

“It occurred to his Excellency that cleanliness, industry, and health, are closely connected to each other, from the example of the very reverse which was daily presented before his eyes. He, therefore, gave every encouragement to persons whom he found most capable of improving the capital, and in the course of a very few years he has seen Dublin, from being one of the filthiest and most uncomfortable as well as one of the most unhealthy cities in Europe, make hasty strides towards becoming the most beautiful capital in his Majesty's dominions.

“Lord Harcourt's experience in life, and his knowledge of this Kingdom, had convinced him that to make a people happy and flourishing, it was essential that the necessaries of life should be cheap and plentiful. His policy, therefore, was to encourage as much as possible the tillage and the fisheries of the Kingdom, without material

injury to the King's revenue. His Excellency has been fortunate enough this year, to see a country, which within ten or fifteen years past paid half a million for corn and flour imported for its support, not only live in the utmost plenty, but even export large quantities of corn.

"The Lord Lieutenant found the upper classes of people in this Kingdom addicted to drunkenness and gaming, and it is no less certain than extraordinary that his example has had such an influence in checking those favorite passions, that he has corrected the one and reprobated the other.

"The situation of the common beggar did not escape his vigilance and humanity, for under his administration a code of poor laws has been enacted, upon a plan admitted to be in many respects preferable to that of Great Britain.

CONCLUSION.

"In a period of universal turbulence and faction, Lord Harcourt has preserved the Kingdom entrusted to his care in profound peace. He has imposed new taxes, and has secured the collection of those already granted. He has filled an empty treasury ; restored public credit ; enriched the nation ; furnished a third of its force to support Great Britain in America ; strengthened the

hands of government ; and stopped several ruinous and profligate practices which squandered the public revenue. He has called a new parliament ; vindicated and upheld the property and the prerogative of the Crown ; and has obtained no favour that by any possibility can clash with the interests of Britain, considered as separate from Ireland.

“ He has established a confidence and good will between the two countries as connected parts of a great Empire, mutually interested in assisting each other, which never subsisted to so great a degree before. He has left such a general good disposition, and such a number of supporters of government, as, with the present scale of patronage, and the present highly improved state of the revenue, must make the administration of his successor as advantageous to the Crown, and as easy to himself, as it has been difficult and honorable to the Nobleman who is now laying down the reins of government in this Kingdom.”

Memorial by Mr. Lees.

THE following further short memorial by Mr. Lees elucidates the matter of Lord Harcourt's relations to his Commander-in-chief, as seen through the spectacles of the Castle office. It is very possible that, if the Chief Secretary had been a civilian, many of the difficulties both in this case and in that of the embarkation of the 4,000 men might not have occurred. Much as Lord Harcourt was indebted to the energy and sharpness of his Secretary, and honourably as he always stood by him, there can be little doubt that personal considerations frequently marred his usefulness and involved the Lord Lieutenant in awkward difficulties.

“An event which took place upon the close of the first session of Lord Harcourt's administration, in May, 1774, the consequences of which have been connected with the close of that administration, deserves to be taken notice of, and, for clear-

ness, kept distinct from the civil business of parliament, or the country.

"In Lord Townshend's administration, and for some time before, from the death of Lord Rothes there had been no Commander in chief appointed in this Kingdom, other than as the Lord Lieutenant, by the King's patent to him, may, as Captain General of the Forces, be considered as such. The eldest Lieut.-General did the duty of Commander in chief under Lord Townshend, under whose administration the staff was, upon the augmentation, reduced from 11 Majors General to 5, and still further reformed under Lord Harcourt to 3; two of these were, by the King's command, to reside with the Commander in chief in Dublin, and one constantly at Cork; which, from the frequent embarkations there, as well as for the protection of the inhabitants against invasion or tumult, it was judged absolutely necessary to defend by the constant presence of an officer of that rank.

"General Elliot, an officer of reputation and experience, was appointed Commander in chief. The General from an active disposition, and from that spirit of innovation which is apt to actuate men of military genius and enterprize, determined to disencumber his proceedings, including his communications with the Chief Governour and his conduct of the military department, from the ancient

established forms of office ; and indeed, from any connection with the office of the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant. With these views he rather precipitately plunged himself into a contest of ceremony and etiquette ; and, finding a determined resolution on the part of the Lord Lieutenant not to submit to innovation, nor to dispense with the ancient and necessary modes of conducting business, the Commander in chief requested leave to resign.

“If one considers that the order upon which he grounded his resignation, was in the following words :—

“‘Whereas it hath been the practice for a great number of years past to signify many orders of his Majesty’s Government, in this Kingdom, to the Commander in chief by letters from the Chief Secretary for the time being, specifying particularly therein that such orders are so signified by command of the Government ; and it being absolutely necessary, not only for the convenience and ease of the Government for the time being, but for the more ready despatch of military business, (which, of late years, is greatly encreased), that this practice should in many cases be continued ; We do hereby signify to you that it is our intention, *in such cases as we shall judge to be proper*, to cause our orders to be signified to you, in our name by letters to you from our Chief Sec-

retary for the time being ; which orders you are to consider and observe in like manner as you would do if the same were signified to you under our own signature. Given, &c.'

"When it is also considered that there subsisted the greatest harmony between the Lord Lieutenant and General Elliot in everything personal ; and that Lord Rothes had, even towards Lords Justices, followed the course of business objected to by General Elliot towards a resident Lord Lieutenant ; it should seem as if somewhat farther was intended to be desired on the part of the Commander in chief, and which he despaired of succeeding in, from this obstructive conduct in the commencement of his command ;—or else, that he, from constitution, was averse to the detail of ceremonials in office ; or again, that he had in contemplation some more favorite object. But certain it is that the matter in difference appears not in itself of magnitude sufficient to have provoked him to resign ; especially as the adhering to ancient forms and official practice is essential to be religiously observed on the part of Government.

"Upon General Elliot's departure, General Irvine was appointed to succeed him, upon whose arrival in Ireland his Excellency, with that politeness which distinguishes him above most men, and with a degree of affectionate attention to-

wards the General, paid him every mark of regard, accommodated him with his own apartments at the Castle, and endeavoured by every possible means to contribute to his honour and his happiness. In the course of a few months the difficulties which were supposed to have died with General Elliot's departure and the King's approbation of his Excellency's conduct thereupon, were not only revived, but spread much wider.

"His Excellency was, indirectly, given to understand that the Commander in chief was a substantive character, sent hither with most extensive powers, and that not only the total direction of the military business was to be entrusted to him, but, as reported, even the patronage of the army was to follow his recommendation, not through the Lord Lieutenant but directly from the King.

"His Excellency looked into his patent; looked into the records of office; looked back into his own conduct; looked up to his Sovereign. Nothing could be found in these researches to authenticate the report, or warrant the suspicion, and yet circumstances gradually made their appearances which lessened the improbability of some of those rumours. Some of his Excellency's military recommendations to his Majesty were either retarded, or their success slackened, or the event of them was known publickly before the Lord Lieutenant had any account of the matter.

"A separate correspondence appeared to exist somewhere, and the Commander in chief stepped forward . . . in the Senate House, and delivered opinions in the House so strong that they were quoted by some of the members in debate. This conduct appeared, hourly, more explicit, and the principles, or assurances of support which suggested it, were no longer very mysterious or equivocal. His Excellency, long in the habits of business, and early acquainted with courts and with mankind, had as observant an eye, and as quick an apprehension at least as any man who surrounded him in the circle. But being of a cool determined mind, and decided as to his own conduct, he was always the last to find out what, when discovered, he knew must be painful or unpleasant.

"He saw no slight in the neglect of his correspondence ; no offence in the roughest expressions of a dry despatch ; no injury or insult intended him in frivolous objections made to many of his measures in parliament, nor in captious complaints, founded neither in argument nor fact. The slight was overlooked ; the offence not taken ; the injury endeavoured to be avoided ; the objections answered ; the complaints refuted by stating the journals.

"He had seen with regret in the history of this country, that the acts of the honestest and

ablest of men that ever governed this Kingdom, had, from misrepresentation and intrigue, made it necessary for them to return to the King's presence, and frequently surrender their trust, in order to vindicate their conduct and character. In the following official orders, transmitted to him by the Secretary of State in March, 1776, the application of this doctrine was brought home to himself. Persons reasoned and commented upon the orders as soon as they were promulged and registered in the Secretary's office; and no reticence was observed respecting them. They were as follows,—

“‘1. All opinions and recommendations of the Commander in chief, whether approved or not, to be transmitted to the King.’

“‘2. In the appointment to new or vacant commissions, the Lord Lieutenant will frequently shew attention to the recommendations of the Commander in chief.’

“‘3. The Commander in chief to have full communication of all letters on military business which the Lord Lieutenant shall receive from his Majesty's Secretary of State.’

“‘4. The Commander in chief, tho' resident in England, shall not be deemed to exceed the bounds of his Commission by transmitting the memorials of officers to the Lord Lieutenant, which he shall receive in this country.’

“Men adverse to administration, and wishing to humiliate his Excellency and the King’s Government, loudly and publicly declared that the 1st of these orders appeared to carry two inferences, equally mortifying and humiliating, viz. That the Lord Lieutenant had improperly disapproved, and that the Commander in chief’s recommendation was to take the place of his Excellency’s ; otherwise, to what purpose transmit what, in his Excellency’s opinion, ought not to be transmitted ?

“That in the 2nd order the Lord Lieutenant’s past discretion is impliedly censured, and his future discretion taken totally away, else, why command him frequently to approve, contrary to his judgment ? or, the command is needless.

“That in the 3rd the Commander in chief is introduced into a full participation of the Lord Lieutenant’s government, for instead of the former method of conveying military information by extract or copy, and seeming to make the intelligence come from the Lord Lieutenant, the whole letter is to be thrown open, which may contain variety of matter, perhaps improper for any second person, for the secrecy of which the Lord Lieutenant is responsible ; and, possibly, censure or reprehension of his own conduct.

“And that by the 4th the most inconvenient and degrading practice is prescribed to the Lord

Lieutenant, apparently calculated to annoy his Excellency, and to accommodate the situation of the present Commander in chief; else, why send a memorial to Great Britain to be sent back to Ireland, for the purpose of being laid before the Lord Lieutenant, constantly residing in Ireland, when the same memorial may, as the practice had been, be, in the first instance, laid before the Chief Governor by the senior officer upon the staff, acting under this government, as Commander in chief for the time being?

“Those who were more moderate and well affected—many, perhaps, of his Excellency’s friends—were obliged to admit that the effect of these orders, whatever might have been the intention, was, impliedly, to censure his Excellency’s past conduct in military matters, to abridge his office of a considerable part of its essential rights; and moreover that they invested a person, however able and respectable, yet certainly of inferior station, with powers that made him the Lord Lieutenant’s superior and controuler; and gave him such advantages in point of residence and irresponsibility, and such temptations to dominate, as must render the Chief Governor subordinate to the Commander in chief; lower and lessen him in dignity and consequence, and render his government impracticable and disgraceful.

“His Excellency read the orders with equal

concern and surprise, but whilst he determined to resign, he resolved to submit.

“If he felt those orders an infringement upon his office, and a derogation to his station, he concluded that resigning that office and that station would discharge his duty and acquit his honour. But sensible that, at all events, the King's affairs required his attendance in this country, and sacrificing every consideration to his personal attachment, he obeyed his Prince, and postponed the period of his return.”

Appendix.

IT now remains to commit to an Appendix a List of the Members of the Irish Chambers of Lords and Commons, with a singular account of favours asked for, favours conferred, and remarks upon the characteristics of the several Members.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

“ This list consists of all those persons who ever come to Ireland ; there are many of them who seldom or never attend the House.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Lord Primate, Archbishop of Armagh Lord Chancellor . . .	Preferment in the Church.
Archbishop of Dublin .	Preferment in the Church.
Archbishop of Cashell .	Preferment in the Church.
Archbishop of Tuam .	Preferment in the Church.
Duke of Leinster . .	A Marquess, a Duke in Ireland, an English Vis- count, Master of the Ordnance, a Lord Jus- tice, a Privy Councillor.
Earls :—	
Antrim . . .	Gov ^r of the county of An- trim, a trustee of the Li- nen Board, a Privy Coun- cillor.
Westmeath . . .	Gov ^r of the county of West- meath, a Privy Coun- cillor, a pension for his Brother.

Favors received in Lord Towns-
hend's Government.

Observations.

A Bishoprick for his friend
Dean Cope.

Constant attender.

Lord Chancellor, a good
living for his Chaplain,
Mr. Bowden, a cornetcy
to his son, an addition
to his salary of £1,000,
and an ensigncy.

Archbishop of Dublin.

A constant attender and a
speaker.

.

Never comes to parlia-
ment.

.

Abroad for his health these
three years.

.

Has not attended parlia-
ment these 4 years, and
asks to be a Marquess.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Meath	A pension, Governor of the county of Dublin and Wicklow.
Donegall	A Privy Councillor . . .
Cavan.	
Inchiquin	A P. Councillor . . .
Drogheda	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. Bd, a Reg ^t , a government, &c. Governor of the county of Meath and the King's county.
Granard . . . .	. . . . .
Tyrone	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. Board, Govern ^r of the county of Waterford.

Favor's received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Very old and infirm, never attends, his pension taken from him.
Created a Constable of Carrickfergus. To serve his Lordship in elections, gave his friend M ^r . Price the Surveyorship of Carrickfergus. A trustee of the Linen Board.	Lives chiefly in England, but makes all his friends here oppose Government.
Linen Board	Seldom attends.
Master of the Ordnance, a Gen ^l on the staff, and Constable of Maryborough, and asks to be a Marquess.	
A Privy Council ^r , and Governor of the county Longford.	Seldom attends, is selling his Boroughs, and is not in humour.
His brother John a Com ^r of the Revenue, his brother William a good living, and asks to be a Marquess.	

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Carrick . . .	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. Board, an Earl.
Hillsborough . .	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. Board, an Earl, and Govern ^r of the county Down.
Shannon . . .	A pension of £3,000 p ^r ann. for 31 years, a P. Coun ^r , a trustee of the L. B ^d , Gov ^r of the county Cork.
Lanesborough . .	A Privy Coun ^r , a trustee of the Linen Board, Comm ^r of the Revenue, Gov ^r of county of Cavan.
Clanbrassil . . .	A Privy Coun ^r , a trustee of the Linen Board, Chief Remembrancer.
Belvedere . . .	A Privy Coun ^r , a trustee of the Linen Board, a peer, and Muster Master General.

Favors received in Lord Towns-
hend's Government.

Observations.

A pension of £1,000 p^r
ann., a company for his
second son, and a living
to M^r. Hewetson.

His friend Dean Dickson
made Dean of Down,
M^r. W^m. Montgomery a
Com^r of Excise, and a
living for M^r. Dunbar's
friend.

Made his friend Surveyor
of Dundalk.

Made his son a Lieut. Col.
of Foot.

Seldom attends, brings M^r.
Waller and M^r. Shiel into
parliament.

Seldom attends.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Wandesford	An Earl
Lowth	An Earl and Privy Council.
Mornington	An Earl
Moir	A Peer, a trustee of the Linen Board.
Arran	A Privy Council, a trustee of the L. Board, a Peer, Gov. of the counties of Wexford and Mayo.
Courtown	
Miltown	A Peer
Farnham	A Privy Council, a trustee of the Linen Bd, a Viscount and Earl.
Charlemont	An Earl, and Governor of county Armagh.
Bective	An Earl.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Wanted to be a Privy Council ^r , and out of humour.
.	Wanted to be Constable of Birmingham Tower, and since in strong op- position.
.	Wanted a living for his Tutor, and much of- fended, brings two mem- bers into parliament.
A Deanery for his friend, and living for his son, Lord Sudley, a Privy Council ^r , and his other son a Comm ^r of Cus- toms.	Infirm and speechless, can- not attend.
His brother an Aide-de- Camp.	Seldom attends.
A Privy Council ^r .	Constant attender.
Leave to sell his place for £7,000.	Seldom attends.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Howth . . .	An Earl
Bellamont . . .	An Earl
Kingston . . .	A Peer, Baron, and Viscount, Governor of the c ^o . of Sligo.
Roden	A trustee of the Linen B ^d Auditor Gen ^l , searcher of Galway.
Ely	Governor of the county of Wexford.

Favors received in Lord Towns-
hend's Government.

Observations.

A Privy Counc^r, and re-
commended for a pen-
sion of £500 a year, but
not granted.

A constant attender.

Trustee of the Linen B^d.,
and a strong recom-
mendation for an ad-
vancem^t in the army.

An Earl, and his brother a
Privy Counc^r, a living
to his friend.

Seldom attends.

An Earl, and joined his son
in his place of Auditor
General.

A constant attender.

An Earl, a Privy Council-
lor, several places in the
Revenue, livings for his
friends, M^r. Tottenham
a Com^r of Customs, M^r.
Loftus a Com^r of Acc^{ts},
pensions to Lady Ely's
relations £300 a y^r,
M^r. McLean Sec^y to the
B^d of Acc^{ts} £300, M^r.
Hellen Council to the
Excise, a cornetcy to M^r.
Loftus's son.

A constant attender.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls:—	
Altamont	A Baron in 1761, and Governor of the county of Mayo.
Ross	A Baron in 1763, and Governor of Donegal county.
Viscounts:—	
Mountgarret.	
Valentia.	
Netterville.	
Strangford	A pension for his daughters, good Church preferment for himself.
Ranelagh	A pension
FitzWilliam . . . .	. . . . .
Molesworth	Pensions for his sisters .
Boyne	A pension of £300 .
Powerscourt . . . .	. . . . .
Mountmorres . . . .	. . . . .
Mountcashell . . . .	. . . . .
Dungannon.	
Glerawly . . . .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Viscount and Earl, a cornetcy to his grandson, Surveyor Gen ^l to his son George, a pension £500 and a collection to his son John £270.	A steady attender.
A Viscount and Earl .	A steady friend.
An Ensigncy for his son, leave to exchange his Livings.	
.	Constant attender.
.	Never attends.
.	Connected by marriage with M ^r . Ponsonby's family.
.	Constant attender.
.	Wanted to be an Earl.
.	Related to M ^r . Ponsonby.
.	Nephew to M ^r . Ponsonby.
.	Connected with Lord Tyronne.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Viscounts :—	
ClanWilliam	A Peer, 1766
Clare	A Peerage, 1766
Crosbie	A Privy Council, a trustee of the Linen Board.
Bishops :—	
Meath	Preferment in the Church .
Kildare	Do.
Cork	Do.
Waterford	Do.
Clogher	Do.
Limerick	Do.
Kilmore	Do.
Elphin	Preferment
Killala	Do.
Raphoe	Do.

Favors received in Lord Towns-
hend's Government.

Observations.

Made his Brother-in-law,
Bourke, first a Dean,
and then a Bishop.

Connected a good deal
with Sir H. Cavendish.

Several small favours, a
trustee of the Linen
Board.

A Viscount, a Deanery to
his brother, his cousin a
King's Serjeant.

A constant attender, has a
very considerable inter-
est in Kerry.

.

Brother to Lord Farnham
and Barry Maxwell, the
Bp. seldom or never at-
tends.

.

Constant attender.

Made Bishop of Cork .

Has scarce taken his seat.

.

Constant attender.

.

Offered him higher prefer-
ment.

Made Bishop of Limerick
by translation.

Constant attender.

Made Bp. of Kilmore by
translation.

Constant attender.

Made Bishop of Elphin by
translation.

Constant attender.

.

Never attends.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Bishops :—	
Clonfert . . .	. . . . .
Ossory . . .	Preferment . . .
Leighlin and Ferns	
Down and Connor .	Do.
Dromore . . .	Do.
Derry . . .	Do.
Cloyne	
Killaloe	
Barons :—	
Kinsale . . .	. . . . .
Blayney . . .	A regiment, a Gen ^l on the Staff, Gov ^r of the c ^o of Monaghan.
Southwell . . .	Constable of Limerick, a trustee of the Linen B ^d , Gov ^r of the c ^o of Limerick.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Made Bishop of Clonfert.	A friend to government, seldom attends.
Made a Bishop, the son of Com ^r Bourke.	Has not taken his seat.
.	Never attends.
.	Constant attender.
Bishop of Derry by translation, an ensigncy for M ^r . Lawless.	Abroad for his health these 4 years past.
Made Bishop of Cloyne .	Constant attender, and will make a good speaker.
Made Bishop of Killaloe .	Has never taken his seat since his appointment ten months ago.
A Pension of £400 a year.	A constant attender.
Trustee of the Linen B ^d , an Ensigncy and Q ^r -Master's Commission for his friend.	Constant attender.
Leave for his son to purchase a troop of Dragoons.	

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Barons :— Desart	
Knapton. Longford	A Cap ^t in the navy
Lisle Mount-Florence	A Peer in 1758
Baltinglass	A trustee of the Linen B ^d , a Peer in 1763.
St. George Annaly	A Peer in 1763. Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and a Peer in 1766.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Wanted advancement in the army, which I endeavoured, but was disappointed, wanted a pension for M ^{rs} . Herbert.	Not in good humour, and connected with Tyrone.
.	Constant in opposition, connected with M ^r . Rowley, a tolerable speaker, and good humoured.
.	Lord Shannon.
.	Has 2 seats which he sells, done one little favour for him, and wants more.
Leave to his son to purchase a company.	Wants to be an Earl, and his son Church preferm ^t , disappointed and strong in opposition.
His brother Examiner of Customs, a Judge to his friend, a Barrack-Master for M ^r . Wilson, Deanery for Dean Trench, livings for his friends, £500 addition to his office.	

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Barons :—	
Lifford . . . . .	. . . . .
Sidney . . . . .	. . . . .
Erne	A trustee of the Linen B ^d .
Eyre . . . . .	. . . . .
Irnham. . . . .	. . . . .
Clermont	Post Mast Gen ^l , a Privy Counc ^r , and trustee of the Linen Board.
Dartry . . . . .	. . . . .
Dawson	A trustee of the Linen Board.
Bangor	A trustee of the Linen Board.
Milbourne . . . . .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Towns-
hend's Government.

Observations.

Lord Chancellor, and a
Peer in 1767.

A Peer in 1768.

A Peer, his son a place,
1768.

A Peer in 1768.

A Peer in 1768.

A Peer in 1760, several fa-
vors in the revenue.

A Peer in 1770.

A Peer in 1770.

A Peer in 1770.

A Peer in 1770.

HOUSE OF

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Antrim co. .	Lord Dunluce, son of the Earl of Antrim.	His father gover- nor of county Antrim.
„ .	Lord Beauchamp, son of the Earl of Hertford.	His brother Hen- ry Constable of Dublin Castle and Clerk of the Crown in the King's Bench, in reversion.
Antrim bo. .	W ^m J. Skeffington, brother to Lord Massareene.	. . . .
„ .	Hugh Skeffington, uncle to Lord Massareene.	A troop of Horse.
Belfast . .	Henry Skeffington, brother to Lord Massareene.	. . . .
„ . .	Geo. Hamilton, brought into parliament by Lord Donegall.	. . . .

COMMONS.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.

Observations.

Gave his Tutor, Mr. Winder, the collection of Corke Excise, £300 a year.

A company of Foot after two years' service.

A pension of £200 p^r annum to his Sister-in-law.

£200 allowance for his Light Horse at Balbriggan.

Not to be depended on, being a bad attender.

These two gentlemen are Lord Donegall's members, and always in opposition, which Lord has received several favors, from L^d Townshend—vide list, House of Lords.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Lisburne .	Francis Price, ne- phew to L ^d Hertford.	Was Collector of Strangford and had leave to sell it.
„ .	Robert Sey Con- way, son to Earl of Hertford.	. . . . .
Randalstown .	John O'Neill.	
„ .	John O'Neill.	
Armagh co. .	W ^m Brownlow .	A Privy Council- lor.
„ .	Sir Archibald At- cheson.	. . . . .
Armagh bo. .	Sir George Ma- cartney.	. . . . .
„ .	Charles O'Hara .	Ranger of the Cur- ragh, and a pen- sion of £200 p ^r ann. for 31 years which he sold.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
<p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Leave to purchase a troop of Dragoons over the officers of the regiment, and now wants to purchase a majority.</p>	<p>Has not attended all this session and yet asks to be a com^r of the Revenue.</p>
<p>.</p> <p>Privy Councillor, and recommended for a Peerage Sec. to the Lord Lieut., two com^d for a friend, and a place for an old servant, Trustee of the L. Board, and a pension of £1,500, with a living of £600 to Dean Marley, with many places in the Revenue.</p> <p>A Com^r of Accounts and £500 a y^r, and wants an additional salary of £300 a y^r.</p>	<p>Connected with the Duke of Leinster.</p> <p>A steady friend to government.</p> <p>Attends constantly.</p>

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Charlemount .	Francis Caulfield, brother to L ^d Charlemont.	His brother made an Earl in 1763.
„ .	Sir Annesley Stew- art.	. . . .
Carrickfergus co. and town.	John Chichester, brother to Lord Donegall.	. . . .
„	Conway Rich ^d Dobbs, son to the late Gov ^r of North Carolina.	. . . .
Carlow co. .	Beauch. Bagnel .	. . . .
„ .	W ^m Burton, son to the late Benj ⁿ Burton, a Com ^r of the Revenue and nephew to Mr. Ponsonby.	
Carlow bo. .	Edward Hoare .	. . . .
„ .	James Somerville, a wine mer- chant.	

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gave him a cornetcy which was vacant, by the death of a relation, during its passage thro' the Office.	Never gave a vote to Gov ^t since. In partnership with Sir Geo. Colebrooke.
.	Never has attended.
.	Connected with L ^d Hertford, set down as one of his friends, and always against Gov ^t .
Recommended his friend Major Pigot for purchase of a majority of Dragoons.	Mr. Bagnel promised to support and never attended afterwards.
Leave to purchase a troop of Dragoons.	A follower of Mr. Ponsonby's.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Old Leighlin .	Sir Fitzroy Almer	. . . .
„ .	Thomas Monck .	. . . .
Cavan co. .	Barry Barry, brother to Lord Farnham.	Prothonotary to the Court of Common Pleas for life.
„ .	Geo. Montgomery, son-in-law of M ^r . Clements.	. . . .
Belturbet bo. .	John Cramer, cousin of Lord Lanesborough.	. . . .
„ .	Robert Birch, merchant.	. . . .
Cavan bo. .	Tho ^s Nesbitt .	A cornetcy and a company of foot, now on half-pay.
„ .	Theop. Clements, son of M ^r . Nath. Clements.	. . . .
Clare co. .	Sir Lucius O'Brien	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Towns-
hend's Government.

Observations.

.
 Brother to Mr. Monck Ma-
 son, procured the place
 of agent to Archbishop
 of Dublin, worth £400
 a year. Dead.

Gave Lord Farnham, his
 brother, leave to sell Bir-
 mingham Tower, £7,000
 at least in his pocket.

A Barrack Master's place
 for a friend.

.

Leave to his brother-in-law
 to resign his place to his
 nephew.

A pension of £300 to his
 father.

Asked for the agency to the
 Reg^{ts} abroad, was granted.

Connected with the Duke
 of Leinster.

This gentleman, on being
 refused to have his son's
 life put into his Patent,
 has ever since opposed
 violently.

On some few questions he
 voted with Gov^t, but is
 generally against.

Lord Lanesborough's con-
 nection.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Clare co. .	Fran. Pierrep ^t Bur- ton, son-in-law of Mr. Clements.	. . . .
Ennis bo. .	Cha ^s McDonnell .	. . . .
„ .	Crofton Vande- leur.	. . . .
Corke co. .	R ^d Townshend.	
„ .	John Hyde, mar- ried a niece of Mr. Ponsonby's.	
Baltimore bo. .	Sir John Freke, son-in-law to Lord Arran.	. . . .
„ .	Richard Tonsen .	Collector of Balti- more, which he had leave to sell.
Bandon Bridge town.	Francis Bernard .	. . . .
„	Tho ^s Adderley .	Com ^r of the Bar- rack Board.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A pension of £600 a year to his wife, and a Quarter Master to Mr. Finecanne.	Attended the session of 1769, but has been absent ever since.
.	Connected with Sir L. O'Brien.
Several small favors, and gave his friend, Capt. Blakeney, an employment of £500 a year.	A very shabby mean fellow, and never to be depended on.
Made a Baronet	Asked two other favors, and never attended since.
.	Father to Mr. Hull—vide Mr. Hull—Tonsen too old to attend.
.	Always lives in England.
Exchanged for the Treasurership of that Board.	Belongs in fact to Lord Shannon, will probably find it very difficult to come in again for Bandon.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Castlemartyr bo.	Sir J. Con. Colt- hurst.	Made a Bart. in 1744.
„	Attiwell Wood .	. . . .
Charleville .	Hon. Ja ^s Lysaght, son to Lord Lisle.	. . . .
„ .	Robert Barry .	Seneschell of the King's manors and a Com ^r of Revenue Ap- peals.
Cloghnkilty .	Richard Longfield	. . . .
„ .	Riggs Falkiner .	. . . .
Corke city .	John H. Hutchin- son.	A Privy Counc ^r , Prime Serj ^t , Al- nager, Sec ^y of State in rever- sion, his 2 nd son second remem- brancer in rever- sion, his brother- in-law, M ^r . Nix- on, comptroller of the Board of Works, worth £300 p ^r an.
„ .	W ^m B. Ponsonby, son to M ^r . Pon- sonby.	

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Lord Shannon's friend and always against.
.	The same.
.	The same.
Trustee of the Linen Board.	Lord Shannon's friend.
.	Do.
<p>£1,000 p^r an. to his place of Alnager, his brother-in-law, M^r. Duguerney, who has a pension of £200 p^r an., made a Surveyor on the Quay of Dublin, worth £500 p^r an., two ensigncies, &c., &c., and several small favors, Deanery to his son's tutor, and a recommendation to a Bishop for a living.</p>	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Doneraile bo. .	St. Leger St. Leger.	. . . .
„ .	R ^d Aldworth, jun.	. . . .
Kinsale town .	Agm. Vesey .	Accomptant Gen- eral, worth £700.
„ .	James Kearney .	. . . .
Mallow town .	Denham Jephson.	. . . .
„ .	D. Jephson, jun ^r .	. . . .
Middleton bo.	St. John Jeffereys.	. . . .
„ .	Ed. Brodrick .	. . . .
Rathcormack bo.	A. Devonshire .	. . . .
„ .	James Barry .	. . . .
Youghall town.	James Dennis .	Second Serj ^t at Law.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Lord Shannon's friend, wants the Peerage of Doneraile.
.	Lord Shannon.
.	Wants to sell it, wants to be a Privy Council ^r or to be a Com ^r of the Revenue.
.	Lord Shannon.
.	Do.
.	Do.
Lieut. Governor of Corke, on resignation of which a Com ^r of Acc ^{ts} , £500, and a trustee of the Linen Board.	Unsteady.
.	Has sometimes assisted, and as often opposed, Lady Middleton's friend.
.	Lord Shannon, lawless, having bought the borough, wont come in again.
.	L ^d Shannon's friend, wont come in again.
.	L ^d Shannon.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Youghall town.	Jos ^{ph} Lysaght, son of Lord Lisle.	Collector of Cork, £500.
Donegall co.	Alex. Montgom- ery.	. . . . .
„ Ballyshannon bo.	John M ^c Causland. Mich. Clarke .	Examinator of the Excise.
„	W ^m Gamble, cou- sin to the Pro- vost.	. . . . .
Donegall	Lord Sudley, son of Lord Arran.	Trustee of the Li- nen Board.
„	Hon. R ^d Gore, his brother.	. . . . .
Lifford	John Creighton, son of Lord Erne	. . . . .
„	Ab. Creighton, his brother.	Lieut. of foot on half pay.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	At first he opposed, but being threatened with the loss of his place, supports. All his family opposes.
.	Voted with Gov ^t in one question only to serve a particular point, but is a determined opponent.
Leave to exchange it without sale to his cousin.	Mr. Conelly's steward, and attached to him.
Com ^r of the Barrack Board, and obtained the agency of the Archbishop of Dublin for his son, worth £400 a year.	These gentlemen moved heaven and earth to get the latter made a Com ^r of the Revenue, and then voted against the division of the Boards and the Revenue Bill.
A Privy Council, and the Deanery of Killaloe was given to Mr. Brocas.	
A Com ^r of Customs.	
Storekeeper of the Ordnance, £200 p ^r an.	Sons of Lord Erne—the one never attends, and the other always opposes.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
St. John's Town bo.	W ^m Talbot, jun ^r .	. . . .
„ .	Hugh Howard, brother to the member for the c ^o of Wicklow.	. . . .
Down co. .	Roger Hall, cou- sin to Lord Hillsborough.	. . . .
„ .	Robert Stewart, son-in-law to Lord Hertford.	. . . .
Bangor bo. .	John Blackwood .	His father made a Bart. in 1763.
„ .	Nich ^s Ward, son of Lord Bangor.	. . . .
Downpatrick .	Math ^w Forde .	. . . .
„ .	Clotworthy Row- ley.	. . . .
Hillsborough bo.	W ^m Montgomery .	. . . .
„ .	Cha ^s Powell Les- lie, cousin of Lord Hillsbo- rough.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A living for his nephew of £300.	Independent, but has been in general well inclined to Gov ^t .
.	Supports Gov ^t with his brother, and is a useful man in Parl ^t .
.	Duke of Leinster's friend and always against.
.	Always against.
.	Independent and always against.
His Father made a Peer .	More than half an idiot and requires watching.
.	Always against.
.	Inclined to be against on Mr. Langford Rowley's acc ^t , but wants a place.
A Com ^r of Excise, and a Quarter Master to his son.	Follower of Lord Hills- borough.
.	An uncommon good friend to Gov ^t and has asked nothing. Lord Hill's connection.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Killyleah .	Lord Ikerrin, son of L ^d Carrick.	. . . .
„ .	Arthur Johnston .	. . . .
Newry . .	W ^m Needham, ne- phew of Lord Chatham.	. . . .
„ . .	Robert Scott .	. . . .
Newtown bo. .	Tho ^s Le Hunt .	. . . .
„ .	Sir W. Ev. Morris	Bart. in 1758 .
Drogheda co. and town.	Francis Leigh .	. . . .
„ .	W ^m Meade.	
Dublin co. .	Lord Brabazon, son of L ^d Meath.	. . . .
„ .	Joseph Deane .	. . . .
Dublin city .	Lord Kildare, son of the Duke of Leinster.	. . . .
„ .	W ^m Clement, M.D.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
His father a pension of £1,000 p ^r an., and gave his brother a company, and a living to his friend.	Mr. Ponsonby's friend. Never attends.
.	
A trustee of L. Board, and wants a place for himself and another for a friend.	
.	Mr. Ponsonby's friend. Do.
A living for his relation, £300.	Connected with the Att ^y Gen ^l .
.	Mr. Ponsonby's connection.
.	Attached to popularity and somewhat to Mr. Pon- sonby.
.	Duke of Leinster.
.	Always against, and an opponent to the Pro- vost.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Dublin Univer- sity.	Phil. Tisdall .	A Privy Counc ^r , Att ^y Gen., Sec ^y of State, Judge of the Preroga- tive.
„ Newcastle bo. .	Sir C. Molyneux . Hon. J. Butler, uncle to Lord Lanesborough.	. . . . .
„ . . . Swords . . .	W ^m Stewart . John Hatch .	. . . . .
„ . . .	John Damer, cou- sin to L ^d Mil- town.	. . . . .
Fermanagh co.	Sir A. Brooke, bro- ther-in-law to L ^d Clermont.	Made a Baronet in 1764.
„	Mervyn Archdale	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Made his cousin, Mr. B. Boyle, a Com ^r of the Revenue, gave a living to his friend, Mr. Disney, and a cornetcy to his cousin, Tisdall, a seat at the Barrack to his brother, and several small livings.	Wants to be a Privy Council ^r . L ^d Lanesborough's, always against.
.	Do.
Leave to sell his place of Sec ^y to the Com ^r of the Revenue.	Mr. Ponsonby.
Com ^r to the Revenue Appeals.	Steady to Governm ^t .
A Privy Council ^r , and a majority of Dragoons to his brother.	Against Gov ^t in his heart, and connected with Tyrone and Fortescue, and acts as they do.
.	Lord Bellisle has some influence with him, but seeks popularity in his county.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Inniskillen bo.	R ^d Gorges, jun ^r .	. . . . .
„	H. Hen. Mitchell	. . . . .
Galway co. .	Dennis Daly, ne- pew to the Earl of Ross and to Mr. Malone.	. . . . .
„ .	W. Pon. K. Trench	. . . . .
Atheury town .	John Blakeney .	. . . . .
„ .	Theop. Blakeney .	. . . . .
Galway town .	Rob ^t French .	. . . . .
„ .	Anth ^y Daly .	. . . . .
Tuam bo. .	W ^m Hull .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Wanted a place, and with L ^d Tyrone until he can get one.
Treasurer of the B ^d of Works, worth £800, and all his relations provided for, exch ^d for a seat at the B ^d with M ^r . Adderley.	
.	An independent and rising young man, M ^r . Malone has most influence with him.
.	Connected with M ^r . Ponsonby.
A pension of £200 p ^r an. and leave to sell his company. Made a Surveyor Gen ^l , £500 a y ^r .	This family brings in two members.
Trustee of the Linen Board.	An able and much respected member, independent and moderate.
.	Acts with Dennis Daly.
Lieu ^t Governor of Corke, 10s. a day.	Never to be relied on.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Tuam bo. .	Hugh Carleton .	. . . . .
Kerry co. .	J. Blennerhasset .	A pension of £200 p ^r an.
„ .	Barry Denny .	. . . . .
Ardfert bo. .	Launc ^t Crosbie .	. . . . .
„ .	Maurice Coppin- ger.	. . . . .
Dingle bo. .	M. Fitzgerald .	. . . . .
„ .	Rob ^t Fitzgerald .	Judge of the Ad- miralty, Com ^r of the Revenue Appeals, and Comptroller of Dingle, with an additional sal- ary of £400.
Tralee bo. .	Edward Denny, brother to the member for Kerry.	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
King's Council. . .	Brought into Parl ^t by Lord Townshend, his father has a great interest in Corke ; this gentleman is able in Parl ^t and a man of honor.
.	Old and never attends.
His brother a living, £900 p ^r an.	A very uncertain gentleman.
.	Lord Brandon.
Third Sergeant at Law.	Do.
Surveyor Gen ^l of Excise, £500.	Two seats in Parl ^t .
A great living for his nephew, M ^r . Day, and an ensigncy to M ^r . J. Barrington, and another Church preferment for another nephew, and now recommended for an additional salary of £300 a y ^r to his seat at the B ^d of Appeals.	Brought into Parliament by his cousin, Maurice Fitzgerald, the Surveyor General.
His brother a living of £900 p ^r annum.	Not to be depended upon.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Tralee bo. .	Rich ^d Underwood	. . . .
Kildare co. .	Sir K. D. Borrowes	. . . .
„ .	Arthur Pomeroy .	. . . .
Athy bo.. .	W ^m Burgh . .	. . . .
„ .	Walter Hussey .	. . . .
Harristown .	Gerald Fitzgerald	. . . .
„ .	Rob ^t Graydon .	. . . .
Kildare . .	Simon Digby .	. . . .
„ .	Jos. Henry . .	. . . .
Naas . .	J. Bourke, sen ^r .	A Com ^r of Cus- toms.
„ . .	J. Bourke, jun ^r , his son.	Surveyor of the Stores, £300.
Kilkenny co. .	John Ponsonby, late speaker.	A Privy Council- lor.
„ .	James Agar, ne- phew of M ^r . Ellis.	. . . .
Callen bo. .	Henry Flood .	. . . .
„ .	John Flood, jun ^r .	. . . .
Irishtown .	Lord F. Campbell	. . . .
„ .	Elland Mossom .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Providore to the Royal Hospital, gave him a small empl ^t for a friend.	Purchased his seat, in his heart inclined to M ^r . Beresford, he is harassed by Gen ^l Dilkes.
.	Duke of Leinster's friend.
.	Do.
.	Do.
.	Do.
.	Do.
.	Do.
.	Do.
.	Do.
His son a Deanery of £700 p ^r an., and since made a Bishop. A pension of £200 to his friend, M ^r . Orms- by.	Note this family has a fixed Borough.
Com ^r of Customs, Trustee of the Linen Board, and his brother a Bishop.	Has four seats, sells two, ought not to do it now he is provided for.
.	The engineer and mouth of the whole Opposition.
.	M ^r . Flood.
.	Never will attend.
.	M ^r . Ponsonby.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Innistoge .	Jos. Matthews .	. . . .
„ .	Lodge Morris .	. . . .
Gowran .	Lieut. Col. Browne, son of Earl of Alta- mont.	. . . .
„ .	Henry Prittie .	. . . .
Kilkenny city .	Hayd. F. Morris .	. . . .
„ .	Sir J. Blunden .	A Baronet in 1766
Knocktopper .	Sir W ^m Fownes .	Searcher of Corke, worth £800 p ^r an. for life.
„ .	Herculus Lang- rishe.	Com ^r of the Bar- rack Board.
Thomas town .	Tho ^s Maunselljun ^r	. . . .
„ .	Geo. Dunbar .	. . . .
King's co. .	Sir W ^m Parsons .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gave him a collection, £300 a year.	
A cornetcy for his son, a Surveyor Generalship to one of his brothers, £500 a y ^r and a collection of £300 to another.	Mr. Ponsonby. A most zealous friend to Government.
.	Related to Sir H. Cavendish, asks favors, but is very uncertain.
.	Mr. Ponsonby.
.	Wants a favor, and keeps aloof.
.	Mr. Ponsonby.
Supervisor of the Accounts of the Barracks.	From situation, with Gov ^t , attached in his heart to M ^r . Ponsonby, but will act up to his professions.
.	Steady friend to Gov ^t , wants to see his father on the Bench, they have great merit and deserve this favor.
A Pension of £300 p ^r . an.	Brought in by M ^r . Agar.
.	Dying—with M ^r . Ponsonby.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
King's co. . Banagher bo. .	John Loyd . . Peter Holmes . .	. . . . .. . . . .
" .	Tho ^s Coghlan . .	. . . . .
Philipstown bo.	R ^d Roch ^d Mervyn, Lord Belvedere's son.	. . . . . .
" .	Duke Tyrrell . .	. . . . .
Leitrim co. .	Nath. Clements .	Privy Council, Deputy Vice-Treasurer, Ranger of the Phoenix Park, Searcher, Packer, and Guager of Dublin, Paymaster of the pensions.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Independent.
.	Sir H. Cavendish's friend, supported Gov ^t . well, wants the Barrack Board, is a very sensible man and fit for the office, and brings himself into Parl ^t , is one of the first Lord Townshend w ^d have provided for.
A trustee of the Linen Board.	Affected he wanted nothing more ; has asked for a place since with great impatience.
Lieut. Col. of foot, and wanted to be a Lieut. Col. of horse over Major Pope.	
.	Belongs entirely to Lord Belvedere, and wants a place.
Several small employments in the Revenue.	M ^r . Clements and his connections have certainly been very steady to Gov ^t , and many very considerable favors have been asked for them during Lord T.'s administration.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Leitrim co. .	W ^m Gore . . .	. . . . .
Carrick bo. .	Henry Sandford .	Register of for- feitures.
„ .	Rob ^t Clements .	. . . . .
James town .	Hon. Ja ^s Browne, son of the Earl of Altamont.	. . . . .
„ .	John Fitz Gibbon	. . . . .
Limerick co. .	Silver Oliver .	. . . . .
„ .	Hugh Massey .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
<p>Gave his friend, Mr. Seely, a place of £100 a year in the Revenue.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Like the other Gores who are in Parl^t, very uncertain.</p> <p>Brings himself into Parl^t, ill health and never attends.</p>
<p>Trustee of the Linen Board, and a Com^r of Customs.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Follows his father, but is not easily satisfied.</p> <p>An able man in Parl^t, very steady, and deserves advancement in his profession.</p>
<p>.</p>	<p>A gent. generally in opposition, and yet will ask great favors at the most critical time. Connected with Lord Tyrone on particular occasions, and for himself through the session at large.</p>
<p>A Privy Council^r . . .</p>	<p>Asked a Bishoprick for his relation, but has kept at a distance, a very polite gentleman.</p>
<p>Recom^d for a Peerage .</p>	<p>Wants a Reg^t for his brother, and a Revenue employment for his son.</p>

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Askeaton bo. . " .	Jos. Hoare . . J. Tunnadine . .	. . . . . Master in Chan- cery.
Killmallock .	Windham Quin .	. . . . .
" .	Tho ^s Maunsell .	. . . . .
Limerick city .	Charles Smyth .	. . . . .
" .	Ed. Sex. Perry .	. . . . .
Londonderry co.	Tho ^s Conolly .	A Privy Counc ^r , a Deanery of £800 p ^r an. to Dr. Woodward, his friend, and several small fa- vors.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
<p>.</p> <p>An ensigncy for Mr. Vincent, and allowed his friend to sell a military app^t, which secured his borough, for which he promised, and gave, the most constant support.</p>	Mr. Ponsonby.
King's Council . . .	<p>Wanted to be a Privy Council^r, uncertain in his support.</p> <p>A very steady friend—<i>vide</i> his son Thomas.</p>
<p>.</p> <p>Privy Council^r and speaker, a Deanery for his brother. His brother-in-law, Mr. Staples, a Com^r of Customs, two Q^r-Masters, a Deanery to Mr. Marlay, and a Barrack Master.</p>	<p>Wanted a grant of the King's Island at Limerick, which L^d T^d procured for the purpose of a new barrack at Limerick. Mr. Smyth has since generally opposed.</p> <p><i>Vide</i> the event of the chair.</p>

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Londonderry co.	Edward Carey .	. . . . .
Colerain bo. .	Rich ^d Jackson .	Clerk of the paper office, £200.
„ .	Theop. Jones .	A Privy Council ^r and Collector of Dublin, worth £800 p ^r ann.
Londonderry city.	Francis Andrews.	Provost of the Uni- versity and a Privy Council ^r .
„ .	Hugh Hill . .	Collector of Lon- donderry.
Newtown Lim- avady bo.	L ^t Col. William Burton.	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Privy Council . . .	In general for Government, in popular questions frequently against.
Second Secretary to the Lord Lieut., and an additional salary of £300 p ^r ann. to the paper office.	
.	A steady friend and a very worthy man.
Made his uncle Bp. of Limerick, gave a living to Dr. Leland, his friend, two Barrack-master's places to his recommendation, £300 a y ^r living to Mr. Andrews, Agency of the Archbp. of Dublin to his relation, and Mr. Gamble to the Barrack Board, £400.	
His uncle, Lord Conynghame, a trustee of the L. Board, and a living to his friend, Nesbit, £400 a year.	Lord Conynghame.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Newtown Lim- avady bo.	Rich ^d Jones.	
Longford co. .	Henry Gore, bro- ther of Lord Annaly.	. . . .
„ .	Rob ^t Pakenham, brother to Lord Longford.	
Granard bo. .	Ger. P. Bushe .	. . . .
„ .	Rich ^d Malone, ne- phew to M ^r . Ma- lone.	. . . .
Lanesborough .	Matt. Esberry .	. . . .
„ .	Edw ^d B. Swann .	. . . .
Longford bo. .	Davis Latouche, jun ^r.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Examinator of Customs, worth £1,100.	Ill health and out of humour.
A Com ^r of Accounts, £500.	Once an ingenious speaker against Gov ^t , now seldom opens his mouth.
.	A very decent man, goes with his uncle.
Gave him the Collection of Wicklow, £180 a year.	Connected with the Prime Serjeant, has supported steadily.
Clerk of the Land permits, and pensions for his sisters of £250 a year, and afterwards made a Surv ^r Gen. £500 a year, zealous in the cause of Government.	
A trustee of the Linen Board.	A very independent man, has frequently been with Government.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Longford bo. .	Warden Flood .	. . . .
Johnstown bo.	Cha ^s Newcomen .	. . . .
„ .	Ralph Feather- stone.	. . . .
Lowth co. .	John Foster, son of the Lord Chief Baron.	. . . .
„ .	James Fortescue, b ^r of Lord Cler- mont.	Trustee of the L. Board.
Atherdee bo. .	John Ruxton .	His brother Sur- geon Gen ^l .
„ .	Geo. Lowther .	. . . .
Carlingford .	B. T. Balfour .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	A follower of the other Flood, with as much violence and less parts.
.	Supports or not, as Lord Annaly has a point to carry with Government.
A Surveyor Gen ^l , £500 a year.	Brought into Parliament by Lord Granard, always very steady.
His brother a large living, and his relation, M ^r . Sibthorpe, made a Judge, and another living of £200 a year to his friend, D ^r . Morris.	He is a very rising young man in the Law and in Parliament, is generally with Gov ^t , but being member for a county sometimes quits it on popular questions.
A Privy Counc ^r , and wants the reversion of his brother's Peerage.	Has high expectations, and if not gratified is not likely to be with Government. The greatest jobber in Ireland.
.	M ^r . Ponsonby.
.	Always against Gov ^t .
A Deanery to his friend .	With Gov ^t when he wants a point, with L ^d Tyrone when he has none to ask.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Carlingford .	Rob ^t Ross . .	. . . .
Dundalk .	Robert Waller .	: . . .
„	James Shiel .	A King's Council
Dunleer .	Dixie Coddington, nephew of Judge Tennison.	
„	Rob ^t Sibthorp .	. . . .
Mayo co. .	Sir C. Bingham .	. . . .
„	James Cuffe .	. . . .
Castlebarr bo. .	John Knox . .	. . . .
„	Edw ^d Kirwan .	. . . .
Meath co. .	Her. L. Rowley .	His wife made a Viscountess.
„	Gorges Lowther .	. . . .
Athboy bo. .	Tho ^s Blighe, late Lieut. General.	. . . .
„	W ^m Tighe . .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Leave to sell his Lieut. Colonelcy.	Mr. Ponsonby.
A Com ^r of Excise, of } £1,000 a y ^r . A Com ^r of Appeals.	Brought into Parliam ^t by L ^d Clanbrazil, steady with Gov ^t .
Chairman of the Session of Kilmainham, related to L ^d Chief B. Foster.	Asks many favors and not steady.
. Barrack Board, £400 a year.	Always against.
.	Mr. Ponsonby. A strange man. Angry that his son was not made an Aide de Camp, a popular man, at present very adverse to Government.
. His brother made a Dean, and an ensigncy for Mr. Fleming.	Always against Government. A very firm and steady supporter of Gov ^t .
.	Son-in-law to Sir W. Fownes, and always against.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Duleek . .	Rich ^d Levinge . .	. . . .
„ . .	Andrew Ram . .	. . . .
Kells . .	Tho ^s Moore . .	. . . .
„ . .	Tho ^s Pepper . .	. . . .
Navan bo. . .	Jos. Preston . .	. . . .
„ . .	John Preston . .	. . . .
Ratoath . .	Sir M. L. Crofton	Made a Bart ^t in 1758.
„ . .	W ^m Irvine . .	. . . .
Trim . .	Tho ^s Fortescue, cousin of L ^d Clermont.	. . . .
„ . .	John Pomeroy . .	Col. of the 64 th foot.
Monaghan bo.	Col. Robert Cun- ingham, bro- ther-in-law to L ^d Clermont.	. . . .
„ . .	Henry Westenra, brother-in-law to L ^d Clermont.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Always against Gov ^t .
.	Do.
. }	Connected with Mr. Rowly and Lord Bective.
. }	Mr. Ponsonby. Have a Borough of their own.
.	A very weavering man, and against when he can't get anything.
.	Married to Mr. Lowther's daughter.
.	Connected with L ^d Mornington, who is against, but he seldom attends.
A majority to his friend, and a company to his recommendation.	In his heart with Mr. Ponsonby, and gave me a very feint support afterwards.
Col. of the 58 th foot, and Gov ^r of Kinsale, and a Q ^r -Master's commission for his friend.	Voted against the Division of the Revenue Board.
.	When L ^d Clermont got his Peerage he promised this gentleman should support Gov ^t ; asked a place, and on being refused went into opposition.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Monaghan co.	Alex. Mont- gomery.	. . . . .
„ .	Edw ^d Lucas . .	. . . . .
Queen's co. .	W ^m Pole, brother- in-law to L ^d Drogheda.	. . . . .
„ .	John Dawson, son to L ^d Dawson.	. . . . .
Ballynakill bo.	W ^m Montgomery.	Auditor of Im- prests, and Bar- rack Master of Kinsale.
„ .	John Moore, cou- sin of Lord Drogheda.	. . . . .
Maryborough .	Sir J. Parnell .	A Bar ^t in 1766 .
„ .	Hunt Walsh .	Col. of 56 th foot .
Portarlington .	Roger Palmer .	Chamberlain of the Exchequer, £50.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.

Observations.

.

{ Always against, L^d Dartrey and L^d Blayney has some influence with them.

.

{ Do.

.

Connected with L^d Hertford and always against Government.

His father made a Peer.

Generally supports Gov^t.

Agent to Lord Townshend's Reg^t, and gave his son a cornetcy, also the Permit Office, £300, and recommended an add^d salary of £378 a year.

Always supported Gov^t steadily.

.

Lord Drogheda.

.

Connected with L^d Drogheda, but always ag^a Gov^t.

A Q^r-Master's Comⁿ for his friend, a living for his brother, and afterwards a Deanery of £700.

Paymaster of the corn premiums.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Portarlington .	Sir Tho ^s Butler (dead)	. . . . .
Roscomon co.	Tho ^s Mahon .	Trustee of the Li- nen Board.
„ .	John French .	. . . . .
Boyle bo. .	R ^t Hon. Henry King, brother to L ^d Kingston.	. . . . .
„ .	R ^d Fitzgerald .	Pension of £200 per ann.
Roscomon .	L ^t Col. Robert Sandford.	L ^t Col. on half pay, aid de camp to the L ^d Lieu- tenant.
„ .	Robert Tighe, M ^r . Clements' ne- phew.	Comptroller of Dublin.
Tulske . .	W ^m Caulfield .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A seat in Parliament, living of Kells to Mr. Webb.	L ^d Dawson's borough, who brings in his own 2 nd son.
A living for his son.	Related and connected with L ^d Crosby, Mr. Mahon has been a very steady friend.
Made his uncle a Dean, an ensigny for his nephew, and wants a pension for his nephew.	Connected with L ^d Annaly and L ^d Kingston, and not very steady.
A Privy Council ^r , and wants a place besides.	Wishes well, but latterly absent, as Lord Kingston is out of humour.
.	Wants to be a Privy Councillor, and to get it, opposed. A very proud impracticable man.
Gov ^r of Galway, and aid de camp on pay.	Wanted an addition to his Government, a steady attender.
.	Goes with Mr. Clements, wants a place, is a very importunate man.
Gentleman of the Bed-chamber, and Collector of Donogodee.	A very steady attender.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Tulske . .	Toby Caulfield (dead), and in his room a M ^r . West- ley, an indepen- dent youngman.	. . . . .
Sligo co. .	Owen Wynne .	Privy Counc ^r , and a trustee of the L. Board.
„ .	Jos. Cooper.	
Sligo bo. .	John Wynne .	Lieut. Col. of 2 nd horse, and Lieut ^t Gov ^r of Corke.
„ .	W ^m Ormsby .	Collector of Sligo.
Tipperary co. .	S ^r Tho ^s Maude .	. . . . .
„ .	Franc ^s Matthew .	. . . . .
Cashell city .	R ^d Pennefather .	. . . . .
„ .	W ^m Pennefather .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Lieutenancy of Dragoons, advanced in the army.	Always against Gov ^t since.
Gave at his request the Gov ^t of Corke to his brother, and promised always to support Gov ^t , now wants a sinecure place for his son.	Generally with Gov ^t , but often out of humour.
Governor of Corke.	Attends well for Gov ^t , but never without some scheme.
A pension of £200 p ^r ann. to a friend.	Connected with the M ^r . Wynnes.
A Privy Counc ^r , wants to be a Peer.	Has attended and supported well.
.	Sir Thomas's antagonist in Tipperary, always aga st Gov ^t .
Pensions to his grandchildren and daughter-in-law, an ensigncy to his grandson. Leave to purchase a majority of Dragoons.	Have this borough, and steady friends to Government.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Clonmell bo. .	Hon. Col. Moore, b ^r to Lord Mount Cashell.	Collector of Corke Excise.
„ .	Guy Moore Coote	Pension of £200 p ^r ann.
Feathard .	Corn ^s O'Callaghan	. . . . .
„ .	John Croker .	. . . . .
Tyrone co. .	Ar. Low. Corry .	. . . . .
„ .	James Stewart, ne- phew of Lord Kingston.	Captain of horse.
Augher bo. .	James Moutrey .	. . . . .
„ .	Hon. Rob. Roch- fort, son to L ^d Belvedere.	Surveyor Gen. of lands, £500 a year.
Clogher bo. or city.	Hon. W ^m Moore, b ^r of L ^d Mount Cashell.	Major of Dra- goons.
„ .	John Staples, b ^r - in-law of M ^r . Conolly.	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Insane, and superannuated in the Revenue.
Additional pension of £200 p ^r ann. and wants an addition to that.	
.	A gentleman that requires great caution to talk with.
An ensigncy for his son .	Connected with Sir H. Cavendish, not very steady.
.	A north country gentle ⁿ , and seeks popularity.
.	Connected with L ^d Kingston, and generally ag ^t Gov ^t .
.	Mr. Brownlow and Knox's connection.
.	Generally with us, as his father is, but absent sometimes when things are near.
.	Mr. Ponsonby.
A Com ^r of Customs, £1,000 a year.	Very steady to Government.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Dungannon .	Tho ^s Knox .	. . . . .
„ .	John Knox .	Collector of Dub- lin Excise £700.
Strabane .	John Hamilton .	. . . . .
„ .	Claude Hamilton	. . . . .
Waterford co. .	John Beresford, b ^r to L ^d Tyrone.	. . . . .
„ .	Sir James May .	Collector of Wa- terford, and made a Baronet in 1763.
Dungarvan bo.	Sir W ^m Osborne .	. . . . .
„ .	Rob ^t Carew, son of Shepland Ca- rew.	. . . . .
Lismore .	Sir H. Cavendish.	Teller of the Ex- chequer, and made a Bart. in 1755.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Connected with Mr. Brownlow, and always against Gov ^t .
.	L ^d Abercorn, but will not come in again, always against.
.	Always against.
Privy Council ^r , Com ^r of Customs, large living to his brother, and made Taster of Wines, with £1,000 a year in addition.	Discontented that the Revenue Board sh ^d be divided, and that his brother, who is under age, could not be made a Bishop.
.	Mr. Ponsonby in his heart, but supports Gov ^t .
A Privy Council ^r , and Com ^r of Excise.	
.	Always against.
Privy Councillor, and a hearth-money collec ⁿ to his friend.	A steady friend.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Lismore . .	James Gisborne .	A reg ^t of foot .
Tallagh . .	Nich ^s Lysaght .	. . . . .
„ . .	L ^t Col. H. Cane .	L ^t Col. of the Royal Irish Dragoons.
Waterford city.	Corn ^s Bolton .	. . . . .
„ .	Shapland Carew .	. . . . .
Westmeath co.	Lord Belfield, son to L ^d Belvidere.	
„ .	Anthony Malone .	Privy Council .
Athlone bo. .	Sir R ^d St George .	Made a Bart. in 1766.
„ .	W ^m Handcock .	Collector of Trim, £300.
Fore bo.. .	John Armstrong .	. . . . .
Kilbeggan .	Gustavus Lambert	Leave to sell his collection of Trim.
„ .	Cha ^s Lambert, his son.	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gov ^r of Charlemount and gen. on the staff.	An able speaker, steady, but very infirm.
.	Lord Shannon.
A living for a friend	Steady to Government.
.	Mr. Ponsonby's friend.
.	Against Gov ^t .
Com ^r of Appeals to his cousin, livings to his friends, and three com ^s in the army.	Generally with Government, great weight in the House.
.	Against Gov ^t .
.	Attached to Mr. Ponsonby, and on some late occasions had gone with Gov ^t to save himself.
A company of foot to his friend.	With Gov ^t in general, but lately much abroad.
A pension to his brother the gen. of £500 a year.	
Collector of Excise for Dublin co.	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Mullingar Ma- nor.	Sr R ^d Steele .	. . . . .
„ .	John Scott .	. . . . .
Wexford co. .	Vesey Colclough .	. . . . .
„ .	George Ogle .	. . . . .
Bannow bo. .	Cha ^s Tottenham .	Collector of Drog- heda, £400.
„ .	Rob ^t Hellen .	. . . . .
Clonmines .	Henry Loftus .	. . . . .
„ .	Cha ^s Tottenham of T. Green.	. . . . .
Enniscorthy .	Corn ^s Grogan .	. . . . .
„ .	Sir Ed. Newenham	Collector of Excise in the county of Dublin, worth £700 a yr.
Fethard .	Arthur Loftus .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Bart., and trustee of the L. Board.	Said he would support Lord T ^d for the said favors, has since been against, and asks a pension for his son.
A seat in Parl ^t , and King's Council, Council to the Com ^{rs} of Customs.	A very able and rising young man, both in Parl ^t and at the barr, and punctual when he professes.
.	Always against.
.	Violent against.
.	Lord Ely, but in his heart much for M ^r . Ponsonby.
Council to the Com ^{rs} of Excise.	Lord Ely, an able man.
Com ^r of Accounts, £500, and a cornetcy for his son, and his other son an aid de camp.	
.	Lord Ely.
.	Always against.
.	In violent opposition and turned out of his collection, a bad speaker.
.	Lord Ely, a good attender, but very infirm, a very worthy man.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Fethard . .	John Tottenham .	. . . .
Gorey . . .	Abel Ram . .	. . . .
" . . .	Stephen Ram .	. . . .
New Rosstown	Cha ^s Tottenham .	Surveyor Gen. of Leinster.
" . .	Rob ^t Leigh . .	. . . .
Taghmon bo. .	James Wilson .	. . . .
" . .	Sir J. Law. Cotter	His father made a Bart. in 1763.
Wexford town.	Rich ^d Le Hunt .	. . . .
" . .	Rich ^d Neville .	. . . .
Wicklow co. .	Hon. W. Braba- zon, son to Lord Meath.	. . . .
" . .	Ralph Howard .	. . . .
Ballinglass bo.	Hon. J. Stratford, son to L ^d Ballin- glass.	His father made a Peer in 1762.
" . .	Godfrey Lile .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
.	Lord Ely, but never attends.
.	Always against.
.	Do.
A Com ^r of Customs .	Lord Ely.
.	Against Gov ^t , but moderate.
.	Mr. Ponsonby.
.	At present in opposition, but likely not to continue.
.	Mr. Ponsonby.
Made his father a Com ^r .	He is sometimes with Gov ^t but uncertain and independent.
.	Mr. Ponsonby's friend, his father lost his pension.
A Privy Council ^r , wants a Peerage.	Steady to Gov ^t .
Leave to his b ^r to purchase a comp. of foot, for which he promised to support.	And always against in every question.
Solicitor Gen., and an ensigncy for his friend, assisted him also in coming into Parliament.	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec ^d in former Governments.
Blessington bo.	Jo. Mon. Mason .	Com ^r of the Bar- racks.
„ .	Cha ^s Dunbar .	. . . . .
Cariesfort .	Sir W ^m Mayne .	. . . . .
„ .	Sir Rob ^t Tilson Deane.	. . . . .
Wicklow .	Edw ^d Tighe .	. . . . .
„ .	John Dillon .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Towns-
hend's Government.

Observations.

Com^r of Excise, and a seat
in Parliam^t, and provided
for his brother-in-law, M^r.
Monk and M^r. Mitchell.

A living to his friend .

Seldom attends, indepen-
dent, some connection
with L^d Hillsboro'.

.

Duke of Leinster's friend,
was dismissed from the
Council Board.

.

Independent, but wants fa-
vors, and in general with
the Government.

Commissioner of Accounts,
and the Surveyorship of
Wicklow to his friend.

A sensible man, and can be
usefull in the House.

.

Independent, generally sup-
ports Government.

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